

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0334\_15**

**Senator Wright asked on 4 June 2014, Hansard page 128**

**Question**

**Evaluation of the chaplaincy program**

Senator WRIGHT: I am very interested in knowing, particularly now given the significant funding that is going to be going to this program, what research, auditing or evaluation has been done on the efficacy of the chaplain program, so all the evaluations that have been done in terms of how effective this program is. Certainly we have heard some anecdotal evidence from you, Senator Ryan, and others, but has there been evaluation of the effects which it has? We are being told this is about welfare, although then, Senator Ryan, you said that welfare has always been a core requirement of schools. So this seems to me to be about religious welfare.

**Answer**

Two independent studies evaluated the effectiveness of the National School Chaplaincy Programmes.

The first considered services provided under the former National School Chaplaincy Program which operated between 2007 and 2011:

- Hughes, Dr. P., and Sims, Prof. M. 2009, 'The Effectiveness of Chaplaincy', As Provided to the National Schools Chaplaincy Association to Government Schools in Australia, School of Psychology and Social Science, Edith Cowan University.

The second evaluated services provided by YouthCARE in Western Australia:

- Harries, M., Cant, R., Lavery, S., Phillips, S., Di Risio, J. 2012, 'Evaluation of YouthCARE Chaplaincy Services in Western Australia'. Centre for Vulnerable children. University of Western Australia.