

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0580_15

Senator Wright provided in writing.

Question

National School Chaplaincy Programme - guidelines

How does the Department define 'proselytise', 'evangelise', 'pastoral care' and 'spiritual advice' in the context of the NSCP?

Answer

Pastoral care is defined in the National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP) Project Agreement as:

The practice of looking after the personal needs of students, not just their academic needs, through the provision of general spiritual and personal advice.

In regards to the definition of 'proselytise' and 'evangelise', the Department of Education relies on the common understanding of these terms as outlined in conventional reference documents, including the Macquarie Dictionary and as articulated by the former National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program's guidelines as follows:

Proselytise – attempt to covert someone to another opinion and/or belief, particularly a religion.

Evangelise – to preach or advocate a cause or religion with the object of making converts to Christianity.

It is in this context under the NSCP that the provision of spiritual advice should be considered.