

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. ED0659_15

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 122

Question

Chaplaincy programme

Senator O'NEILL: ... Could I ask you to provide me with a full list of every religion and grouping that a chaplain can be employed under because I want to put beyond doubt what is included and what is not included in this policy. The answer which referred me to this, I do not think was a satisfactory one.

Answer

Under the National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP), a chaplain is an individual who:

- i. is recognised by the school community and the appropriate governing authority for the school as having the skills and experience to deliver school chaplaincy to the school community; and
- ii. is recognised through formal ordination, commissioning, recognised religious qualifications or endorsement by a recognised or accepted religious institution; and
- iii. meets the NSCP's minimum qualification requirements.

Where an interpretation of a religious institution is required in relation to criteria ii, the Department of Education refers to the Australian Tax Office Ruling (TR92/17) that defines a religious institution as a body which is instituted for religious purposes.

Where there is a query in relation to the religious affiliation of a chaplain, the department refers to the *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and available at www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1266.0.