

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.3

DEST Question No. E843_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Schools Chaplaincy Program -Qualifications

Can you explain the following specification from the Code of Conduct:

"... will not perform professional or religious services for which they are not qualified."

1. If the chaplain is not supposed to talk about their own particular religion, how are they qualified to talk *generally* about religion and values? What qualifications, exactly, would qualify them to do that?
2. What professional – as opposed to religious - qualifications will they be required to have to perform their duties? For example, should chaplains have the same qualifications as school counsellors – in psychology and so on?
3. If they don't need these qualifications, why don't they? What exactly separates their role and function from that of a counsellor?

Answer:

Schools Chaplaincy Program – Qualifications

1. A chaplain is able to talk about their religion and values. Chaplains should not conduct religious services if they are not qualified to do so.
2. Professional qualifications are not mandatory. This is a matter for the school community to determine when selecting a chaplain.
3. Section 1.1 of the Programme Guidelines describes the difference between this Programme and existing services.