

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** 1.3

#### **DEST Question No. E844\_07**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

National School Chaplaincy Programme – Existing counselling services

1. Given that chaplains, under this program, will perform a very general role of pastoral care and assisting students with personal problems (your Guidelines use the example “grief”), did the Government consider, as an alternative to this program, providing Commonwealth support for counselling services in schools?
2. Will a school that applies to you asking for funding for a school counsellor receive approval? Is that possible?

#### **Answer:**

*National School Chaplaincy Programme – Existing counselling services*

1. That is a matter for government.
2. For the purposes of this Programme, a school chaplain is a person who is recognised:
  - by the local school, its community and the appropriate governing authority as having the skills and experience to deliver school chaplaincy services to the school and its community; and
  - through formal, commissioning, recognised qualifications or endorsement by a recognised or accepted religious institution or a state/territory government approved chaplaincy service.

A school may apply for funding for a school counsellor if the application meets the above and other requirements of the Programme as set out in the Programme Guidelines.