

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0973_12

Senator Brown provided in writing.

Question

Chaplaincy program

What is the definition of 'secular' in the context of the Student Welfare Worker? If there is no definition, why not?

Answer

There is no definition of 'Secular' in the Program Guidelines.

The Macquarie Dictionary defines secular as:

- of or relating to the world, or to things not religious, sacred, or spiritual; temporal; worldly.
- not relating to or connected with religion, as literature, music, etc.
- dealing with non-religious subjects, or, especially, excluding religious instruction, as education, etc.

During the national stakeholder consultation process to inform the future of the National School Chaplaincy Program, no concerns were expressed regarding the definition of secular. The Department considered that the dictionary definition was sufficient and no further clarification was required.