

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW674_09

Senator Allison asked on Wednesday 4 June 2008, EEWR Hansard page 65.

Question

National School Chaplaincy Program

Senator Allison: If they identify a chaplain, do they have to give details of his or her qualifications? I know they are not required to do so.

Mr Sheedy: Sometimes they do, yes.

Senator Allison: Are you keeping records of that? Is there any data that you can provide the committee with?

Mr Sheedy: I can give you a little bit of detail on some of the sorts of qualifications. A number have teaching qualifications; some do have counselling, psychology, theology.

Senator Allison: If you have the figures, is it possible to give those to the committee?

Answer

All chaplains engaged under the National School Chaplaincy Program must have at least:

- Endorsement from a religious authority external to the school and/or;
- Formal qualifications and/or;
- Formal ordination or commissioning by a recognised religious institution.

2960 chaplains are currently engaged under the National School Chaplaincy Program (as at 25 June 2008). The following table is based on information provided to the Department by chaplaincy providers and schools.

Formal Ordination or commissioning by a recognised religious institution	1124	38%
Formal Qualifications	1503	52%
<i>Postgraduate</i>	226	
<i>Graduate</i>	666	
<i>Advanced Diploma</i>	31	
<i>Diploma</i>	358	
<i>Certificate III/IV</i>	256	