

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 1

**Output Group:** 1.3 – Assistance for quality teaching and learning

#### **DEST Question No. E526\_07**

Senator Wong asked on 1 November 2006, in writing,

**Question:** *Chaplains for schools*

1. The Department has advised that funding under this program will be provided to individual schools. Please confirm this.
2. Please advise the employment arrangements for the people employed under this programme.
3. Which entity will be the employer of government schools? school council? Principal? State department; other (e.g. Scripture Union?)
4. Confirm that these entities will be responsible for the actions of the chaplains and liable for any civil or criminal allegations or changes?
5. Will the Commonwealth be mandating any specific employment conditions, e.g. AWA's?
6. Provide the final guidelines for the programme as soon as possible.

#### **Answer to question 1:**

*Chaplains for schools*

1. As advised in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Government and non-government schools can apply for funding under this Programme. To be eligible to receive funding, schools can only enter into a Funding Agreement through an approved organisation that is a legal entity. The FAQs can be found at: [www.dest.gov.au/schools/chaplains](http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/chaplains).
2. The guidelines do not prescribe employment arrangements; however, the guidelines require compliance with all relevant legislation and require school chaplains to sign a National Code of Conduct.
3. The school will determine which entity will employ the chaplain in accordance with the guidelines.
4. The chaplain's employer will be responsible for the chaplain's action to the same extent that any employer is responsible for its employee's actions. Whether there is criminal or civil liability for acts of chaplains would depend on the particular circumstances and the law in the relevant jurisdiction.
5. No.
6. The guidelines are available at [www.dest.gov.au/school/chaplains](http://www.dest.gov.au/school/chaplains).