

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0814_12

Senator Marshall asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 44

Question

Age of Chaplains

CHAIR: I have a couple of questions. Is there a minimum age of a chaplain? How old does a chaplain have to be? Mr Sheedy: There is no minimum. Ms Paul: But of course the changes require certain qualifications and, therefore— CHAIR: They are the changes. But what about now? How many chaplains do we have who are under 18? Ms Paul: Under 18 years old, I do not know. Mr Sheedy: I do not know. I would assume none or a very small number. CHAIR: How many are under 16? Mr Sheedy: I do not know. CHAIR: Can we find out? Mr Sheedy: Yes, we can.

Answer

Under the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) Guidelines, schools are able to select and employ the chaplain that they deem most suitable to meet the needs of the school community.

In 2011 the Department conducted a telephone survey of the major chaplaincy service providers which place chaplains in schools.

The survey did not find any chaplains funded under the NSCP who are under 18 years of age.