

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0726_13

Senator Wright asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 84

Question

Denomination of the chaplains

Senator WRIGHT: Is it possible to have a breakdown of the denomination of the chaplains? Mr Sheedy: Yes, I have some information on that. Senator WRIGHT: You can take that on notice for me, if you do not mind

Answer

Chaplains and Student Welfare Workers funded under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program are employed to provide pastoral care support for schools and their communities, and are prohibited by the Program Guidelines from engaging in religious instruction or for proselytising for a particular religious or philosophical view.

The Program Guidelines require that chaplains:

“...deliver services in a way that respects the range of spiritual views and cultural traditions in the school community, and also respects the stated views of parents/guardians to ensure the spiritual and moral education of their children is in line with their own convictions”

Schools are able to employ chaplains of any religious affiliation, based on the preferences expressed by the wider school community during consultation. As at 1 November 2012, there were 2,607 chaplains (excluding Student Welfare Workers) registered for the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. Of these, 2,593 identify as various Christian denominations and 14 from other religions as follows:

Religious Denomination		Total
Christian Religions		2593
Anglican	143	
Baptist	143	
Catholic	182	
Churches of Christ	55	
Eastern Orthodox	1	
Lutheran	20	
Pentecostal	168	
Presbyterian & Reformed Churches	10	
Salvation Army	22	
Seventh Day Adventist	28	
Uniting Church	45	
Unspecified	1776	
Other Religions		14
Aboriginal traditional religions	2	
Buddhist	1	
Baha'i	1	
Islam	6	
Judaism	4	
Total		2607