

**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. EW0727_13

Senator Wright asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 85

Question

qualifications of the welfare officer

Senator WRIGHT: The other question I have is about a breakdown of the data. Do you have any data about the qualifications of the welfare officers? You said cert IV was the minimum requirement, but are they psychologists? Do you have any data about that? Mr Sheedy: We will have it, but I do not have it to hand. Senator WRIGHT: Again, if you could take that on notice, I would appreciate that. Mr Sheedy: I will provide that for you, yes.

Answer

As at 1 November 2012, there were 229 Student Welfare Workers employed under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

A variety of qualifications are held by these workers which include:

- 72 with teaching/education qualifications
- 19 with psychology qualifications at the Bachelor or Masters/Doctorate level
- 16 with youth work qualifications
- 19 with counseling qualifications
- 103 with qualifications in pastoral care, community services, social work or similar.

The level of qualification varies between workers as follows:

- 16 hold a Masters or Doctorate level qualification
- 104 hold a Bachelor Degree or Graduate Diploma
- 75 hold a qualification at Certificate IV or Diploma level
- 34 are continuing workers from the previous program and hold the minimum specified units of study which includes Work Effectively in Mental Health, and Respond Holistically to Client Issues /Refer Appropriately.