

PASTORAL CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE (PCIR) CHAPLAINS

YouthCARE's Pastoral Critical Incident Response (PCIR) program is at the forefront of school chaplaincy provision in the State and Country. A group of 83 YouthCARE school chaplains is part of a critical incident response team that will provide emotional guidance and support to school communities including students, staff and families in public schools following traumatic incidents.

YouthCARE PCIR chaplains are mobilised by the Department of Education after receiving a request from a school principal to render PCIR chaplaincy within the school community.



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Who We Are

YouthCARE is the trading name of The Churches' Commission on Education Inc., established by a broad group of Christian churches in WA in 1972.

What We Do

YouthCARE provides a broad range of services including school chaplaincy and Christian religious education.

Why We Do It

YouthCARE believes our presence in public schools makes a difference to educational outcomes for students and the wellbeing of school communities.

How We Do It

Respect. Compassion. Service.

These three core values shape the actions of our staff and volunteers in support of our vision – to express God's love and presence in educational communities.



Respect – We recognise the context in which we exist and accept and honour the diversity of views among our members and the communities we serve.



Compassion – We reach out to those in need by providing holistic services aimed at inspiring hope.



Service – We serve our members and educational communities by creating partnerships that rely on collaboration and recognise the contribution of others.

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CHAPLAINCY

Expressing God's Love & Presence In Educational Communities

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YOUTHCARE CHAPLAINS IN WA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

YouthCARE Chaplaincy started in 1982 through the support of local churches providing funding for Christian chaplains in two schools in Western Australia. The program has grown over the years as more churches, community bodies and Federal and State Governments understood and appreciated the value of this service and provided funding support.

In recent times, YouthCARE's Chaplaincy Services expanded to include support chaplaincy and Pastoral Critical Incident Response (PCIR) chaplaincy.

There are currently over 300 schools with YouthCARE's in-school chaplains and a further 120 schools accessing our support chaplaincy services with the latter expected to expand further across the State.

Our school chaplains are drawn from diverse backgrounds of varying professions and qualifications. All new YouthCARE school chaplains are required to participate in a comprehensive Induction training program and 12 months of Supervised Professional Practice. In addition, they participate in wide-ranging professional training and development offered by YouthCARE and the Department of Education throughout the year. YouthCARE Area Chaplains provide both pastoral care and supervision to YouthCARE school chaplains.



IN SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Our school chaplains aim to provide a sensitive Christian presence within a secular public school system and offer pastoral care to students, school staff and members of the community – irrespective of their faith or cultural backgrounds. Independent research has shown that in-school YouthCARE school chaplains are a valuable part of the school fabric and work with a desire to assist students and often other significant adults reach their full potential.

In-school pastoral care includes a variety of issues, including health, social and values education, behaviour management and emotional support.

YouthCARE school chaplains are an integral part of their schools' student services by:

- Building relationships with students, families and staff;
- Offering pastoral care;
- Being a mentor;
- Offering input into spiritual and 'the meaning of life' questions;
- Being a positive role model;
- Providing a link between schools and local communities.

Beyond the desire to 'catch up' with YouthCARE school chaplains, the major issues that primary school and secondary school students discussed with their school chaplains in 2010, were family relationships, peer relationships and bullying and harassment. In 2010, a total of 21,742 'at risk' students had contact with YouthCARE school chaplains. 17,706 (67%) of these students were Indigenous and 14% were immigrants who were formerly refugees.

SUPPORT CHAPLAINCY

YouthCARE developed, piloted, evaluated and rolled out Support Chaplaincy in the metropolitan and regional areas during 2010. The Support Chaplaincy Program initiative, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is designed to provide all remaining WA public schools access to YouthCARE's chaplaincy services.

During the pilot phase of the program, there was a 75% take-up by metropolitan public schools for this service, which clearly affirms the need for access to Chaplaincy Services.

Support chaplains are not linked to a specific school, but serve and connect with a cluster of schools.

The engagement of this Support Chaplaincy service will be by request of the Principal and/or Student Services manager to respond to situations that are not considered 'day to day' in nature.

Some of the proposed services provided through the Support Chaplaincy model could include:

- Serious pastoral care issues – students, staff, and parents;
- Pastoral care through regular visitation;
- Chaplaincy support to the school leadership team as required;
- Assist and attend significant school events as required;
- Providing a link between schools and local community based support organisations.

As Support Chaplaincy is funded through the State Government, there will no cost to the school or local YouthCARE Council for this service.

