



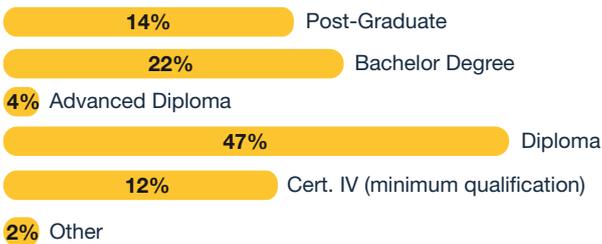
# 2019 SU CHAPLAINCY QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

School chaplains have been providing social, emotional, and spiritual support in schools for more than 28 years. Throughout 2018 we collected information on their activities and impact. We are pleased to share our findings with you.

## QUICK FACTS

### Qualifications\*

SU QLD school chaplains meet the minimum qualification standards set by the State and Federal governments.



87% of chaplains exceed the minimum qualification level of Cert. IV across Youth Work, Social Science, Education, Ministry/Theology, and other disciplines.



### Generations



### Did you know?



The average age of an SU QLD school chaplain is 43 years of age.

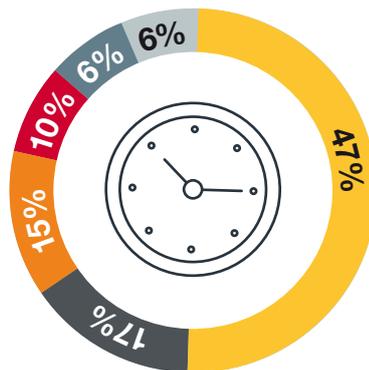
### Gender



## WHAT DOES A SCHOOL CHAPLAIN DO?

Chaplains in Queensland provide social, emotional, and spiritual support for school communities. They contribute to the overall wellbeing strategies and educational goals of our local schools.

Chaplains promote positive spirituality. They provide opportunities for students, staff, and families to explore their own spirituality and what it means to them.



### How much time do chaplains spend on each of their key role areas?\*

- Social, emotional, and spiritual support
- Educational support
- Role modelling and mentoring
- Extracurricular activities
- Community development
- Team contributions

## WHAT IMPACT DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HAVE?



“Chappy has encouraged my quest for knowledge. She has been a friend, a mentor, and is someone I will never forget.”

— Lucas, Year 12

“Chappy Lauren helped me get through the grief of [losing] my brother...Chaplains are amazing and we need them in our schools.”

— Faith, Year 9



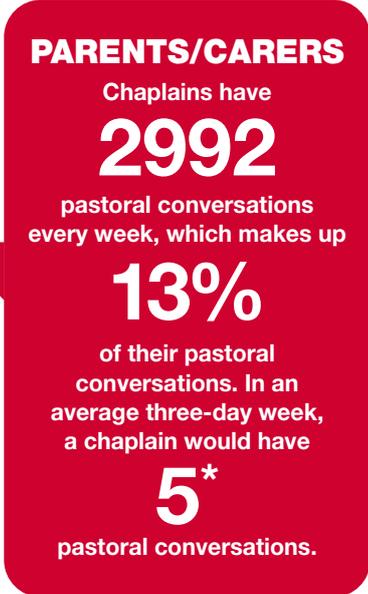
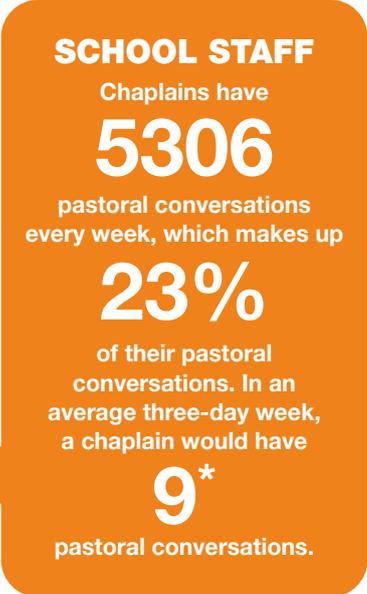
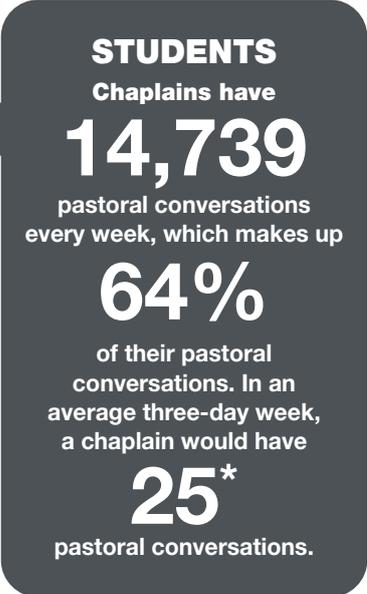
\*Total 101% due to rounding

## WHO DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS TALK TO?

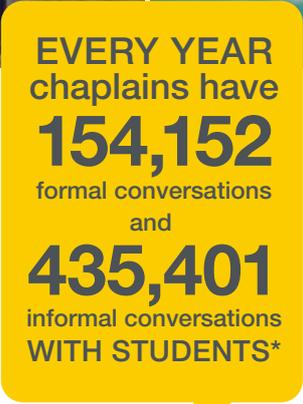
In Queensland, school chaplaincy services are available and accessible to all students, staff, and families. Chaplains don't provide case management or counselling but complement other school support services by providing pastoral care support.



\*The average number of conversations a chaplain has per week is 39.71. Totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.



## HOW DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HELP STUDENTS?



### Top 5 issues students talk to chaplains about

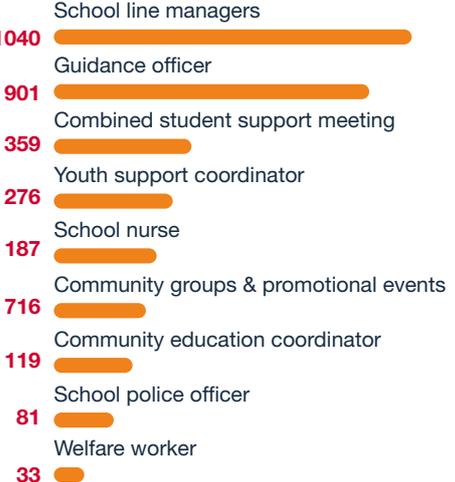
- 1 Friendship and peer issues
- 2 School behaviour
- 3 Bullying (face-to-face and cyberbullying)
- 4 Family breakdown / parental separation
- 5 Mental health

### What's the difference between an informal and formal conversation?

A formal conversation requires resolution, referral or follow-up. An informal conversation, though significant, requires no further action.



### Meetings with other school-based support staff per week\*



\*Totals are rounded

## HOW DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HELP STUDENTS WITH BULLYING?



Chaplains have **556 pastoral conversations per week** with students about bullying.

Bullying is one of the top three issues students talk to their chaplain about.

**80**



The number of targeted anti-bullying programs chaplains run in an average school term.

### Forms of bullying\*

Face-to-face bullying 84%

Cyberbullying 16%

Verbal 46%

Social 36%

Physical 17%

With permission from the school principal, chaplains may refer families and individuals to relevant internal and external agencies for additional support.

## WHAT DOES SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY LOOK LIKE?



Your schooling years are said to be among the best times of your life. Sadly, for many young Queenslanders, they're not. Instead, it's a time of pain and rejection, which can often cause problems well into adult life. For Deception Bay State High School graduate, Cloe, this could have been her story...

Before transferring to Deception Bay State High, Cloe had left her previous school, vowing never to return after she'd endured relentless bullying that escalated to alarming levels. Cloe was robbed of her self-esteem and saw no hope for the future.

"[The bullying] affected me a lot. It made me feel like I wasn't good enough and it had a huge impact on my life. It's scarred me. It still affects me to this day."

Cloe joined the FUTURES program for at-risk students at her new school, which is supported every day by SU QLD chaplains. It was here that she began to regain the self-worth that was stolen from her. She was able to pursue a future she had thought was unattainable.

"I had no idea that I would be capable of doing a certificate or diploma," says Cloe, who previously hadn't even considered graduating high school, let alone going on to further study.

"Now I know that I can finish my current certificates and be a personal trainer."

Chaplaincy made this transition possible, says Cloe.

"Having a chaplain to speak to got me through my time here. Every time I'm going through something, I know that there's someone I can speak to and that I'm not alone. So whatever I'm struggling with, I know my chaplain is there to help when I need it."

Cloe's journey from victim to victor is the result of a combination of her own courage and her chaplain's support.

Without the chaplain to support her and reignite her self-worth, Cloe may not have started on her path to a positive, flourishing life.

## WHAT OTHER WAYS DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS PROVIDE SUPPORT?



Chaplains make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of school communities through the facilitation of social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing programs, such as FRIENDS Resilience, Rock and Water, Triple P, and Seasons for Growth.



### How many programs do chaplains run in an average school term?\*

\*Figures are rounded



**359**  
Breakfast clubs



**246**  
Spiritual support



**18**  
Grief and loss



**123**  
Educational support



**10**  
Funerals and memorials



**237**  
Mentoring and role modelling



**347**  
Social-emotional support



**80**  
Anti-bullying



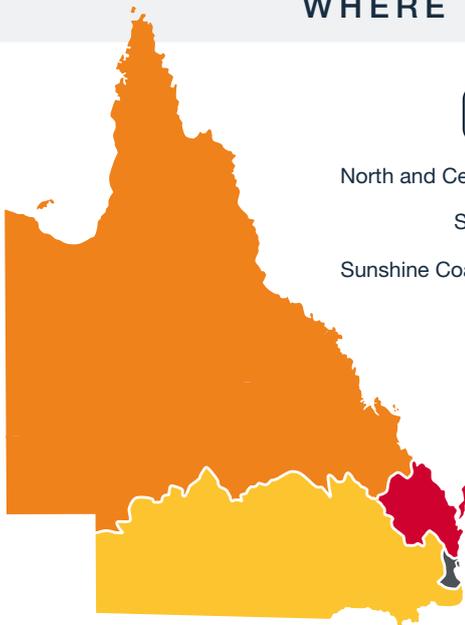
**223**  
Community development, events, and activities

## DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS SUPPORT THOSE AT-RISK?

School chaplains are available to everyone, but they are particularly invested in supporting individuals and groups who may be considered at-risk. Through early intervention activities and pastoral support, school chaplains increase the chances of these young people experiencing better life outcomes.



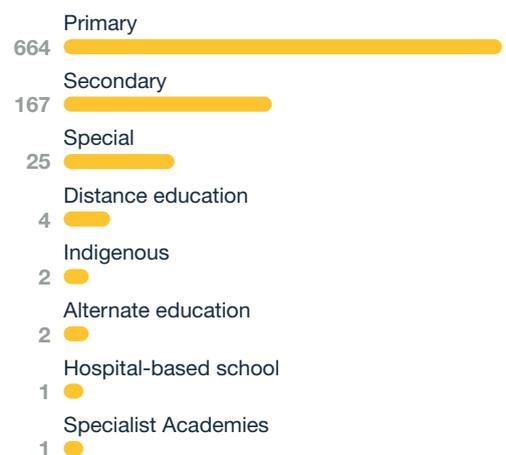
## WHERE ARE OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAINS?



### Distribution of chaplains

North and Central Queensland ● **246 schools**  
 South Queensland ● **260 schools**  
 Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay ● **137 schools**  
 Brisbane ● **223 schools**

### Different types of schools chaplains work in



If you would like to download this report, visit [suchaplaincy.org.au/snapshot2019](http://suchaplaincy.org.au/snapshot2019).



This research and design was undertaken in partnership with **mccrindle** [mccrindle.com.au](http://mccrindle.com.au)

**SU CHAPLAINCY - A DIVISION OF SCRIPTURE UNION QUEENSLAND**

☎ A member of the Scripture Union International community. **ABN** 74 009 669 569 **RTO** 30548  
 Level 1, 126 Barry Pde, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 **T** 1300 478 753 **E** [info@suchaplaincy.org.au](mailto:info@suchaplaincy.org.au)

