

## Chaplaincy / Student Welfare statement

Chaplaincy / Student Welfare is a service that complements the care offered by other helping disciplines and aims to assist school communities through the provision of help and care to support the personal and social well-being of students and the school community.

At Mater Dei Primary, Lisa Simpson works closely with the staff and the School Counsellor to support the pastoral care and well-being of students and staff at Mater Dei. This team work closely to ensure a consistency of service and diligent attention to the wellbeing of our students.

Lisa as chaplain has undertaken the following activities throughout the year;

- Implementation of the Minni Vinnies program. This culminated in taking our Mini Vinnies group to 2 aged care facilities visiting the residents and singing of Christmas Carols. Following our visit we have been invited back this year and are currently planning our visit with the students raising funds to pay for the costs.
- Creation of “Food for thought” brochure – providing to the parents of Mater Dei Primary relevant and topical articles to support them in their role as parents. This communication has the opportunity for feedback and requests for specific articles and resources to support parents.
- Creation of a ‘please call’ list. The collation of a list of parents who are willing to provide support in a very practical way of a meal to a family in need.
- Together with our Principal creating and delivering Anti-Bullying workshops to all of our students. This coincided with the National Day of Action against bullying and violence.
- Working with teachers to address specific issues within their student group. This has been seen in our Year 5 group working of self-awareness, self-esteem, team work and leadership skills.

It is not compulsory for any student to participate in activities or receive services from a Program school chaplain/student welfare worker.

Parents or guardians who wish to withdraw their child from a well-being activity / program, or who wish to lodge a complaint about the Chaplaincy / Student Welfare service at Mater Dei should notify the Principal, Danny Malone, in writing. Danny will make contact with you to discuss your concerns. Any complaints are handled in line with the school’s clearly identified complaints procedures.

The role of our Chaplain and her importance in our school was discussed with and endorsed by our School Council. Our school staff have been consulted as to their support in the continuation of this service in our school, and the results showed a unanimous show of support. Positive feedback as to the service received from our Chaplain is regularly received either verbally or in writing, from students and families.

The Chaplaincy / Student Welfare project at Mater Dei Primary School was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.