

(Parent / Guardian Consent)  
**Voluntary Student Participation in Program of Chaplaincy Services at  
 Park Ridge State High School**

The local community of this school provides a program of chaplaincy services which is available to all students.  
 Chaplaincy services are an additional program in the school which operates with the endorsement of the school's Parents and Citizens Association. The chaplain is involved in the following activities which happen at this school.

Parent/Guardian Name	
Student Name	
Student Name	
Student Name	

- Voluntary Student Activities Free of Religious, Spiritual and/or Ethical Content**
- *Free weekly BBQ breakfast for staff and students providing an opportunity to communicate with members of the whole school community.*
  - *"No Limits" /"Connect" Program, including a camp, is available for boys "at risk", helping them to re-engage in school and tap into their potential,*
  - *QCS BBQ Lunch cooked for the Year 12 students when they do the Queensland Core Skills Test.*
  - *One-to-one support appointments to speak to students individually about life issues involving school, family and friends.*

**These activities are available to all students who may voluntarily participate unless a parent or guardian requests in writing that this is not to occur for their child/ren.**

- Voluntary Student Activities with Religious, Spiritual and/or Ethical Content**
- *BITE Lunchtime outdoor program involving games and activities, accompanied by a Christian message and encouragement to attend youth groups.*
  - *Christian Band performances at lunchtimes, in which performers may share their faith with students.*
  - *Youth Alive Presentations by guest speakers to promote Youth Alive events and provide motivational messages.*
  - *Bible Study / Support Group during lunchtimes for students who are interested in reading the Bible, exploring spiritual issues or going to youth group.*
  - *One – to-one support appointments with Christian students focusing on the spiritual side of life. Students may choose to accept a Bible.*
  - *Gideons Year 8 visit – representatives from Gideons International in Australia offer Year 8 student a free Bible.*

**My child/ren as listed above has/have my consent to participate on a voluntary basis in activities within the program of chaplaincy services which have religious, spiritual and ethical content. I understand that this consent is inclusive of all such activities and remains operational unless I advise the school otherwise in writing.**

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use:  
 Retain original and provide a copy of notice to the parent/guardian.  
 Inform parents or guardians that prior to commencement of any additional activities with religious, spiritual and / or ethical content in the school they will be advised through the school newsletter and website.

# National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program

Schools play a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and wellbeing of young Australians, and in ensuring the nation's ongoing economic prosperity and social cohesion. Schools share this responsibility with students, parents, carers, families, the community, business and other education and training providers.

The National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program were announced in September 2011. Commencing in January 2012, the Program builds upon the success of the National School Chaplaincy Program and supports school communities to establish school chaplaincy and student welfare services or to enhance existing services.

From 1 January 2012, schools funded under the Program are able to choose the services of a school chaplain to provide pastoral care services and/or select the services of a non- faith-based, or secular, student welfare worker.

Program funding is appropriated annually by Parliament and administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (the Department), through the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

The nature of the chaplaincy/student welfare services to be provided, including whether they are provided by a school chaplain or secular student welfare worker, is a matter which must be decided by the school, following consultation with the school community. Students will not be obliged to participate in the Program, and parents and students will be regularly informed by the school about the availability and the voluntary nature of the chaplaincy/student welfare services.

## The Objectives of the Program

The objectives of the program are to assist school communities to provide pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students, irrespective of their faith or beliefs. This can include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships and spiritual issues; the provision of student welfare; and enhancing engagement with the broader community.

Access to advice, support and guidance about ethics, values and relationships may already be available at schools through existing services, such as counsellors, youth workers, social workers and psychologists. National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program funded services are designed to form part of the already existing wellbeing services provided within the school community.

## General Principles

The following general principles apply to the Program:

- Participation in the Program by school communities is voluntary.
- It is not compulsory for students to participate.