

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011–2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0470_12

Senator Hanson-Young asked on 2/06/2011, Hansard page 48.

Question

Chaplaincy Guidelines

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just let me get this straight. The current guidelines which are in the operation at the moment do not set out any minimum requirements of qualifications for individuals working in schools under the program, but if providers wanted to set their own, that is up to them. Ms Wall: Or if a specific school wanting to arrange a chaplain decided that chaplain must have certain qualifications, of course the school could do that as well. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have many schools done that? Ms Wall: We would need to check. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice.

Answer

The National School Chaplaincy Program Guidelines do not set minimum requirements for qualifications for chaplains to work under the program.

When recruiting a chaplain, schools are given the flexibility to determine who is most suitable for the position based on their own criteria, which may or may not include formal qualifications. Schools that do not source a chaplain through a provider employ chaplains through their school council, local church or similar organisation. Of those schools where the chaplain is not sourced through a provider, approximately two thirds of current chaplains possess tertiary qualifications, with approximately half possessing an undergraduate or post-graduate degree. Approximately two thirds of chaplains with tertiary qualifications hold qualifications in fields such as psychology/counselling; education/teaching; or social welfare/youth-work.

Schools and providers inform the department of the qualifications upon engagement of chaplains or pastoral care workers.