

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0392\_14**

**Senator Wright provided in writing.**

**Question**

***National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program***

How many chaplain and student welfare officers have been dismissed from schools? Please provide the total number, per state, and reasons for each dismissal?

**Answer**

Under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Programme (NSCSWP), schools engage the services of either a chaplain or student welfare worker through a third party funding recipient. The funding recipient acts as the employing body for the worker.

The recruitment, selection and ongoing management of workers is the responsibility of the funding recipient in consultation with the school principal. This includes, but is not limited to, the monitoring of workers against performance expectations, compliance with the NSCSWP's code of conduct and meeting the requirements of the school community.

Consequently, the department does not hold information about the dismissal of chaplains or student welfare workers by funding recipients.

Consistent with the NSCSWP guidelines and funding agreements, funding recipients must notify the department of any complaint made against a worker where a breach of the programme guidelines may have occurred. In some instances, this may lead to the funding recipient terminating a worker's employment. The department monitors the funding recipient's compliance against the complaints handling protocol to ensure all complaints are handled in a proper manner.