

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 May 2012



**Independent Schools
Council of Australia**

New Chaplains and Welfare Workers Welcomed

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has today welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of schools that will receive funding under the extension and expansion of the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP).

The Government announced that 409 independent schools with existing chaplains or student welfare workers were granted an extension to their funding for a further three years. These schools represent 1.6% of all Australian schools that received funding under the extension of the program.

In addition, a further 64 independent schools will have the opportunity to participate in the program after their application under the expansion of the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program was successful. These schools represent 6.5% of all schools funded under the NSCSWP expansion.

473 independent schools from every state and territory in Australia will be funded over the next three years under the NSCSWP.

Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of ISCA, welcomed this significant additional government investment in Australian independent schools.

"Through this program the Government supports schools in meeting their student welfare responsibilities by nurturing positive student wellbeing, developing strong school communities and enhancing engagement with the broader community," said Mr Daniels.

"The Government is to be congratulated for assisting the important work undertaken by chaplaincy and student welfare services in schools through expanding the scale of this distinctive and highly valued program and for ensuring certainty of funding until the end of 2014", concluded Mr Daniels.

ENDS

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