

Bendigo Korus Connect Chaplaincy Support Group

Edition #2

2020

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I wonder how many times you have heard the phrase '*these unprecedented times*' this year?

How about the phrase '*what we're all going through*' or '*we're all in this together*'.

Sayings like those have become pretty much the norm in 2020. And that reminds me of another one, '*the new normal*' or '*covid normal*'.

Are we tiring of such clichés?

It occurs to me that whilst these may be '*unprecedented times*' for our generation in our nation, people have struggled with disease, unemployment, uncertainty, the fear of death, isolation (and the list goes on) in all times. Even here in Bendigo, there are many who suffer such circumstances at any given time.

Much has been said about the impact on mental health and well-being, family violence, even suicide. Many families have been bereaved or impacted by separation from family networks and support groups.

Whilst the circumstances of the Covid 19 Pandemic are unique to 2020, our chaplains would agree that many of the issues that have been highlighted this year have been around in schools before. They have just been intensified this year.

As for the phrases '*what we're all going through*' and '*we're all in this together*', maybe we have to ask ourselves, '*ARE we all going through the same, and ARE we all in this together?*'. Or do we breathe a sigh of relief that it's not really causing too much disruption for me, so let's just get on with life.

School chaplains are in a unique position to come alongside students, staff, principals and often whole families, as they deal with circumstances beyond their control. For most of us, we're unaware of what many are going through.

By supporting our chaplains, through our prayer, our personal encouragement, and our finances, we can in some small way truly '*be in this together*'.

Chaplains are *there* in person, but they need us to be behind them.

Thank you to everyone who responded to an email to contact MPs regarding the proposed 'Fiona Patten bill'. The following information has been received from Dawn Penney, CEO at Korus Connect.

It is now a couple of weeks since the much-anticipated voting on the **Education and Training Reform Amendment (School Employment) Bill 2020**, introduced to the Victorian Parliament by the leader of the Reason Party, Fiona Patten. Had the Bill been passed, it would have had a devastating effect on the school chaplaincy program but also on school communities. Due in large part to the prayers and advocacy of many people, Ms Patten chose not to continue to pursue her Bill in Parliament on this occasion, instead using her allocated time to raise other matters. As a result, this may be but a temporary reprieve and we encourage you to keep praying and advocating for the key role that chaplaincy plays in our school communities so that it may long continue.

Your support is very much needed.

Rosalie Harvey, Secretary



An Australian Government Initiative

All schools, except Weeroona College, have been partially funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy Program. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Funding for 2021/2022

The National School Chaplaincy Program is currently being reviewed by the Government and all schools on the list for funding in 2020 plus any other schools wishing to be considered have been invited to make application for funding in 2021/22. Applications were to be submitted by Friday, October 23 and the results of applications will be made known before the end of the school year. There are no guarantees that schools funded in 2020 will keep their funding.

Our Committee, at the suggestion of Korus Connect, have opened a new account with the Bendigo Bank. Our account with the Commonwealth Bank is still operational but will be closed in the new year. We request that all people wishing to donate on-line do so into the Bendigo Bank. The details you will need are

Account name: Bendigo Korus Connect Chaplaincy Support Group

BSB 633000

Account number 178886610

Reference your name.

**New
banking
details**

Please delete the account number that you have been using and destroy any old Donation/Direct Payment Giving Slips you may have. The Giving Slip that accompanies this newsletter has the new correct banking details.

Donations

With not being able to fundraise this year our finances have suffered. In the eleven week period from September 1st we have had only one individual donation. Some people have donated prior to September but I would implore others to consider making a donation before the end of the year. We certainly would benefit from your giving.

Our Support Group have agreed to offer an end-of-year award to the schools who have a Korus Connect chaplain employed during this year. Secondary Colleges will be offered \$200 each and the nine Primary schools will be offered \$50. We recommend these awards be given to students who have shown good improvement either academically or behaviourally. **Ray Harvey, Treasurer**

**EOY awards
for schools**

Chaplain: at these schools

Rose Amy	Spring Gully PS, Kangaroo Flat PS
Carl Rusbridge	Weeroona College Bendigo
Kelli Bailey	Golden Square PS
Leigh Pryse	Eaglehawk Secondary College
<i>New appointment pending</i>	Lockwood South PS, Big Hill PS
Merilyn Tatt	Maiden Gully PS
Ricky Cawley	White Hills PS, Axedale PS
Mike Peautagitama	Crusoe College
Wendy Kofoed	Eaglehawk North PS

Our current committee

Craig Clifton	Chairman
Ray Harvey	Treasurer
Rosalie Harvey	Secretary/Newsletter
Jenny Rainsford	Member
Mary Preston	Member
Laurie Preston	Member

This newsletter was photocopied at Creek Street Christian College at no cost to the Committee. We are most appreciative of this contribution.

