



## Bendigo ACCESS ministries Chaplaincy & Wellbeing Support Group

Newsletter: Edition #1

2018

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### A word from Chairman, Craig Clifton

It's not often that the words 'budget' and 'exciting news' are used in the same sentence, but it is possible. We received the exciting news last week that the Commonwealth government included a commitment to continue funding for the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) in this year's budget. As a result, the NSCP will be maintained for at least a further four years.

This is such a great outcome and an indication of the favour that the Chaplaincy program has with schools and school communities (not to mention our heavenly Father!). I participated in the campaign of writing letters to local politicians asking them to support the re-funding of the NSCP. I was really pleased by the responses I received and by personal advocacy for the Chaplaincy program by two of the parliamentarians that I wrote to.

While there are still many details to be worked out and negotiations to be held with State governments, the budget announcement means that Commonwealth funding for our chaplains will continue. They will be able to maintain their much-needed work in our primary and secondary schools and our school communities will continue to be supported by these dedicated and faith-filled people.

Whatever the outcome of these negotiations, it will still be necessary for our local Chaplaincy and Wellbeing Support Committee to continue to raise funds to support the work of our chaplains in schools. The funding is unlikely to be sufficient to fund full-time secondary chaplains (which we have at Eaglehawk and Crusoe Colleges) and may not be available to all schools. We may need to continue to partner with some primary schools to enable them to cover the local share of the cost of chaplaincy.

Your on-going support for School Chaplaincy is incredibly important and your past generosity is greatly appreciated. Please continue to support our chaplains and enable them to make a difference in the lives of children within our community.

### Important upcoming event!

#### **Annual Dinner**

**Thursday, 13 September, 6.30pm**  
**At Holy Trinity church in Keck Street**

**Catering by Holy Trinity caterers:**  
**Two course meal, tea and coffee**

**Cost: \$35 per person**

**Guest speakers: Dawn Penney, CEO ACCESS Ministries**  
**Bishop Matthew Brain**



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.

## Introducing Merilyn Tatt, new chaplain at Maiden Gully Primary School

I began in the Chaplaincy role at Maiden Gully in week 5 of Term 1 this year. Previously, I have worked in Primary teaching roles, both as a music specialist and classroom teacher. For some time I have been challenged to pursue the wellbeing/chaplaincy side of education. It is hard to believe that I have only been in the school for a matter of weeks. I have been quickly accepted by the staff and students within the school and have already had a number of meaningful conversations with parents. I have been able to help some children through difficult issues, whilst others require weekly and fortnightly one on one sessions as they deal with different struggles within their family and at school.



My prayer is for wisdom to know the best way of dealing with the many issues that arise within the life of the school. Also, I value prayer for good connections that I have already made with staff and that there will be sufficient time within the two days each week to meet the needs across the school community.

**All of our chaplains value your prayer support!  
We have 9 chaplains serving in 12 schools, as follows:**

<b>Barb Miller</b>	Spring Gully PS	Tues & Wed
<b>Carl Rusbridge</b>	Weeroona College Bendigo	Wed, Thurs & Fri
<b>Kelli Bailey</b>	Golden Square PS	4 days
<b>Kristen Gleeson</b>	Eaglehawk Secondary College	5 days
<b>Megan Haddon</b>	Lockwood South PS	Mon & Fri
<b>Merilyn Tatt</b>	Maiden Gully PS	Wed & Thurs
<b>Ricky Cawley</b>	White Hills PS Axedale PS	Thurs & Fri Mon, Tues, Wed
<b>Rose Amy</b>	Crusoe College Kangaroo Flat PS	Mon, Tues, Wed Thurs & Fri
<b>Wendy Kofoed</b>	Eaglehawk North PS	Tues & Wed

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We are thankful for this generous contribution.

