

Attachment to EDOC2015/14589 and EDOC 2014/54162

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL CHAPLAINS IN NORTHERN TERRITORY SCHOOLS**

Following is a Code of Conduct for school chaplains delivering chaplaincy services in Northern Territory schools. This Code of Conduct, or one that adheres to the intent of this document, must be signed by the school chaplain before any chaplaincy services are delivered. School chaplains who refuse to sign the Code of Conduct will not be permitted to provide chaplaincy services in Northern Territory schools.

### **Code of Conduct**

For the provisions of chaplaincy services at ..... (school name)

The school chaplain will provide pastoral care, general spiritual advice, and comfort and support to students and the school community irrespective of their spiritual beliefs.

The school chaplain's role is to support school students and the wider school community in a range of ways, such as assisting students in exploring their spirituality; providing guidance on morals, values and ethical matters, in cases of bereavement, family breakdown or other crisis and loss situations, as required.

In providing these services, the school chaplain must sign and observe the following Code of Conduct.

The school chaplain will:

1. recognise, respect and affirm the authority of the school principal and/or the school council, and will work in consultation with them
2. respect the rights of parents / caregivers to ensure the spiritual and moral education of their children is in line with their own convictions
3. adhere to all relevant Commonwealth, state or territory policy and legislation, including that concerning privacy and confidentiality
4. contribute to a supportive, inclusive and caring learning environment within the school
5. avoid physical contact with a student, recognising however that there may be some circumstances where physical contact might be appropriate, such as where the student is injured or distraught
6. not put him or herself, or allow him or herself, to be placed in a compromising situation, recognising that there are circumstances where confidentiality may be sought by the child
7. where information is provided about the support and services available in community groups, including religious groups and in the broader community, this information must be accurate and impartial

8. act as a reference point for students and other members of the school community on spiritual issues, values, human relationships and wellbeing issues. This includes providing support for grief, family breakdown and other crisis situations. In doing this, a school chaplain will:

- a) respect, accept and be sensitive to other peoples' views, values and beliefs that may be different from his or her own
- b) uphold a parent/caregiver and individual's right to choose their beliefs and values
- c) actively discourage any form of harassment or discrimination on the grounds of religious ideology or doctrine
- d) under certain circumstances, refer a child to a chaplain who is in accordance with their own beliefs and values.

9. while recognising that an individual chaplain will in good faith express views and articulate values consistent with his or her denominations or religious beliefs, a chaplain should not take advantage of that privileged position to evangelise or proselytise for that denomination or religious belief

10. will not perform professional or religious services for which they are not qualified or authorised.

**Use of Information on this form and privacy**

Information on this form is collected in order to notify the department of your agreement and suitability for the position. Information collected about you on this form can be provided, in certain circumstances, to relevant departmental personnel. In other instances information on this form can be disclosed without your consent where authorised or required by law.

**Acknowledgment of school chaplain**

I understand and agree to the terms of this Code of Conduct

.....  
Print name of school chaplain

..... Date //  
Signature of school chaplain

.....  
Print name of school principal

..... Date //  
Signature of principal (or delegate)

**Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

As school chaplains hold special positions of trust, they must be accountable for their actions. In addition, the school principal must take all reasonable steps to ensure that school chaplains comply with this Code of Conduct.

If there is an actual or perceived breach of this Code of Conduct, the school chaplain may be required to immediately cease providing chaplaincy services. The principal is required to notify the department immediately if they become aware of such a situation, and adhere to all

department or relative non-government school policies relating to the reporting of critical incidents. In such circumstances, school chaplains must not continue to provide any services to the school unless the department gives written agreement for the chaplaincy services to continue.