National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP)
Background details of NSCSWP for school communities

Hennessy is preparing an application to seek Australian Government resources for three years (2012-2014) through the NSCSWP. Should we be successful, resources from this program will allow our school to employ an additional staff member for our school’s well-being team (in addition to the inputs provided by school executive (including REC), Counsellor, Pastoral Care and Learning Support personnel).

Extensive details (including guidelines) for this Australian Government program are available on the web www.deewr.gov.au/schoolchaplaincy should you wish to research this program further.

This program is an opportunity to build on the work already done for our students’ well-being. As the NSCSWP is not intended to be a formal part of/or in place of the school’s formal Religious Education program we are intending to apply for resources for a ‘Student Welfare Worker’, a person with suitable qualifications to a contribute to and align with our school’s student well-being program.

Key NSCSWP details and program objectives are:

1. The primary objective of the NSCSWP is to provide pastoral care and general support (spiritual, social and emotional) to all students
2. The NSCSWP is intended to complement other school and community services available to students with the appointed person being a member of the school’s well-being team supported and managed through the Principal
3. The NSCSWP is intended to be a service for students and staff to promote the well-being of all students and contribute to creating a school environment of cooperation, mutual respect and trust
4. The NSCSWP role is not seeking to impose any particular set of beliefs but, in a general way, contribute to a positive ethos in keeping with a Catholic school tradition

The role of the NSCSWP person, determined at school level and based on individual/evolving school’s needs, will include some or all of the following:

- Being available to students during formal class and recess time and/or at other organised school functions eg school camps, excursions and social/sporting events for input and support to build resilience and/or respond in times of discord or crisis
- Running, facilitating or being involved with student well-being programs eg. Seasons for Growth, Mind Matters, peer support and student well-being/leadership activities
- Being the adult listener in matters of personal conflict, family discord etc and referring matters to relevant professional services and/or agencies eg. community health
- Facilitating partnerships and connections to community services eg. referral to vacation camps/health services for students/families
- Running programs within the school to promote student well-being as part of the school’s well-being team
- Liaising and working within with the school’s well-being team (eg. providing briefs/referrals to the Counsellor) and communicating to the school community through the school newsletter, web page and community forums as appropriate