

Pastoral Care Workers (PCW)

SMG (Schools Ministry Group) works closely with the Department for Education as a 'Service Provider' for the Chaplaincy Program in our schools through the engagement of a Pastoral Care Worker (formerly known as CPS Worker).

Pastoral Care Workers offer a unique dimension of care and support to students, families and staff. They are trained and experienced and work alongside and complement other welfare and wellbeing staff in schools.

Role of a Pastoral Care Worker

A Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) is a trained, experienced and passionate person who joins a school community on behalf of the local churches to provide extra support to young people.

PCWs are a positive role model who brings genuine compassion, understanding and practical ongoing support to students and families.

PCWs work alongside and complement other welfare and wellbeing staff in schools.

PCWs main tasks are:

- To support the school in its aim to be a safe and supportive learning environment
- To support the wellbeing of students, staff and families
- To link families to community resources and services

A Pastoral role

- To participate in a wide range of school community activities, and support staff, to contribute to a caring and inclusive learning environment within the school
- On request, provide support or information to students, staff and families in areas affecting their wellbeing
- On request, provide on-going personal assistance to individual students, subject to appropriate consent, duty of care, confidentiality and disclosure requirements
- Be available to provide ongoing support to individuals and/or families
- Provide additional opportunities for students, staff and families to feel supported

A Referral role

- Provide factual and impartial information about, network with, and be link to, the support and services provided through community groups, including church groups, local council and government agencies
- Consult and liaise with student counsellors and other staff about student safety, wellbeing or learning while maintaining appropriate confidentiality, and referring students to other staff as required
- Be a mandated notifier, and thus be required to report any suspected abuse or neglect

A Resource role

- Provide a reference point for addressing social, religious or spiritual issues
- Provide access to resources from the broader community which complement and support the school's focus on wellbeing
- Be available to give input into health, social skills and values courses (e.g. in the areas of grief, self-confidence or relationships)
- Be available to give assistance with camps and excursions, and where appropriate, initiate activities such as voluntary clubs or groups in the school
- Support groups such as the Student Representative Council and the Peer Support Program
- On request, assist the Principal to liaise with the local church community and the school for the provision of optional 'Religious Education Seminars' in school time