Hasn’t the High Court stopped school chaplaincy?

No. In 2012, the High Court ruled unanimously that there is no constitutional problem with chaplains serving in government schools. Because of how the chaplaincy service works, there is no problem of church-state separation. The 2014 High Court decision is only about the funding model — whether federal funds can be paid directly to chaplaincy providers, or whether the funding should be through state/territory grants. Federal funding for school chaplaincy can continue as states/territory grants. This was acknowledged by the High Court in 2012 and 2014.

Aren’t school chaplains just out to convert students to religion?

No. Chaplains are required to be non-judgmental, non-coercive and support all students regardless of the student’s issues or worldview. If they fail in this, they answer to the school, the relevant state/territory education department, the federal government and their employer.

Every school chaplain signs a binding national code of conduct, with serious disciplinary consequences if contravened. If there is a problem, it is dealt with swiftly and decisively.

The national rate is 13 complaints of proselytising (actively converting to faith) per annum (three year average). With 2,900 schools having chaplains, the rate of proselytising complaints is 0.4 per cent per annum, and has been declining each year. In 2013, there was one complaint nationally.

Are school chaplains qualified?

Yes. All SU QLD Chaplains hold a minimum Certificate IV in Youth Work and also hold or are working towards, a Diploma in Youth Work; or hold a higher qualification in a relevant field (e.g. Education, Social Work, Counselling, Psychology).

Student Welfare Workers are not social workers. They are held to the same standard of qualifications as chaplains (Certificate IV or higher).
Chappy Kirsten says goodbye...

Kirsten Long writes, “Thanks Aldridge State High School. I enjoyed being the chaplain at Aldridge - getting to know many of the students who chatted with me, and also helping out with a number of activities and events. It was sad to leave many colleagues, especially the Student Support Centre (C Block) staff, who I worked alongside and appreciated getting to know. However, I am grateful to spend more time caring for my two daughters aged two and a half, and six months.”

“One of the exciting things is that the school will continue to have a chaplain who has been here since I went on maternity leave. Chappy Jacqui has been at Aldridge since the beginning of the year and her enthusiasm, kindness, and experience working with students is greatly valued by the school community. I wish her the very best in her continued role.”

The LCC thanks Kirsten for her contribution to the school, and wishes her and her family all the best in the future.

Chaplain Jacqui du Toit will increase her current two-day a week service to three days, commencing Term 4.

Introducing SU District Coordinator Adam Hardie

“As the new District Coordinator for S.U. Qld here in the Maryborough region, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Adam Hardie and I am married to my lovely hard-working wife of 24 years Lisa, who is the S.U. District Coordinator for Bundaberg. We have three children.”

“It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve you. I am passionate about the work of chaplaincy and have seen first hand the transformational work school chaplaincy has in the lives of young people. What a privilege to work with such a diverse calibre of chaplains who come with their own array of gifts and talents; not to mention the passionate support that comes through the work of our dedicated Local Chaplaincy Committee members, and the local churches. Without their valued support, we would not have the service we have today.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone over the coming months and am keen to support the fantastic work that is happening in our schools and wider community to support young people.”

Right: Adam Hardie with wife, Lisa, and daughters Aleisha, 15 and Jasmine, 12.

Left: Kirsten Long with Oliveya and baby Amelia
Mark’s Term Report

“Part of my role description is to do two weeks of professional development each year, outside normal working hours. Over the winter school holidays, I attended the Living Wisdom mini school in Bundaberg. It was a time of professional and personal growth, challenging the various thought patterns we sometimes tolerate.”

The annual chaplaincy conference has also been held, and it is a great time to catch up with other chaplains, be inspired and informed of the direction for coming years. It was good to get to know our new District Coordinator, Adam Hardie, a little better.

I was able to take part in the school’s annual Music Tour. We visited four other school and had our bands perform. Another good time of bonding with students outside the normal school setting.

I’ve also had the opportunity to have a few deep conversations with staff and students, that I hope will positively encourage them.

Thanks for your support, so that we, in turn, can support our school community.

Congratulations Mark, on becoming the Wide Bay Representative for the Chaplaincy Excellence Group!

A Youth Alive event was held in every Queensland region on the same night.

Youth Alive provide drug and alcohol free events in each state at various times and locations during the year. Most attendees are aged between 12 and 25. The style of each event may vary dramatically but generally includes exceptional music, dance and drama performances, competitions, multimedia presentations, motivational speaking, giveaways and guest artists. These events are for the primary purpose of reaching young people through positive life choices.

During recess on Tuesday 29th July, a large number of Aldridge students queued up for free sausages in bread.

Organised by Pastor Dave Schipp from Tinana Christian Church, and Chappy Jacqui, the promotional visit got the word out about the upcoming Youth Alive concert. This was held at Hervey Bay High’s Great Hall on Friday 1st August, and resulted in 350 people attending.
Maryborough High Schools Chaplaincy Donor Slip

Please return form (with cheque if used) directly to...
Stephen Berry, Local Chaplaincy Committee Treasurer, 168 Fort St, Maryborough 4650
or visit www.suqld.org.au

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☐ Cheque (make payable to “SU Qld Schools’ Ministry Fund”)

End of year tax receipts will be issued by the 2nd week of July

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for the latest chaplaincy news, stories and initiatives visit www.suqld.org.au

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