

Chaplaincy at Newtown State School

Introduction

A chaplaincy program is an optional service introduced into Newtown State School to provide students, staff and parents with support which may have a religious and/or spiritual component. Chaplaincy services provide an additional adult role model in schools. Whilst personally modelling and owning their own faith positions or belief, chaplains avoid any implications that any one religion, denomination or other set of beliefs is advantageous or superior to any other denomination, religion or belief.

Our chaplaincy program is compatible with policies and practices that apply to delivery of any service in a multi-faith and multicultural state school community. A chaplaincy program is inclusive of and shows respect for all religious and non-religious beliefs and other stances represented in the school community. All activities and events provided within a chaplaincy program are non-discriminatory and equitably available to students of all beliefs who choose to participate. Religious Instruction is not part of a school's chaplaincy program and occurs only in accordance with legislation and departmental policy.

Local Chaplaincy Committee

Newtown State School Chaplaincy runs under the guidance of the Local Chaplaincy Committee (LCC), with representatives from parents and staff, local Churches, and Scripture Union (the major employing authority for school chaplains in Queensland.) The Local Chaplaincy Committee is charged with representing the diversity of religious, faith and non-religious beliefs in the school community. Members of the LCC understand the cultural and religious customs and needs of individuals and groups within the school and range of services and support currently available and/or required.

Funding

Chaplaincy at Newtown State School is funded through a combination of a state government grant and donations from local Churches, community organisations and individuals. School funds provided by the Queensland government for educational purposes are not used to support chaplaincy services.

Accessing Chaplaincy Services

1) Student-initiated

Students are able to approach the Chaplain directly to discuss any matters or issues which are occurring. In the case where ongoing support of a student appears likely, contact with parents will be made seeking permission for this to occur.

2) Teacher-initiated

Teachers, amongst their conversations with students and/or their parents, are often made aware of situations or difficulties that the child and/or their family are experiencing. The teacher is able, with permission, to discuss the situation with the Chaplain and consider the best range of measures to support the student/family involved. Often, it will simply be a single conversation with the student. But, there are times when ongoing regular support would be appropriate. At such times, the teacher will be provided with a 1 on 1 Chaplaincy permission form for parents to sign, to initiate and establish this support.

3) Parent/Guardian Initiated

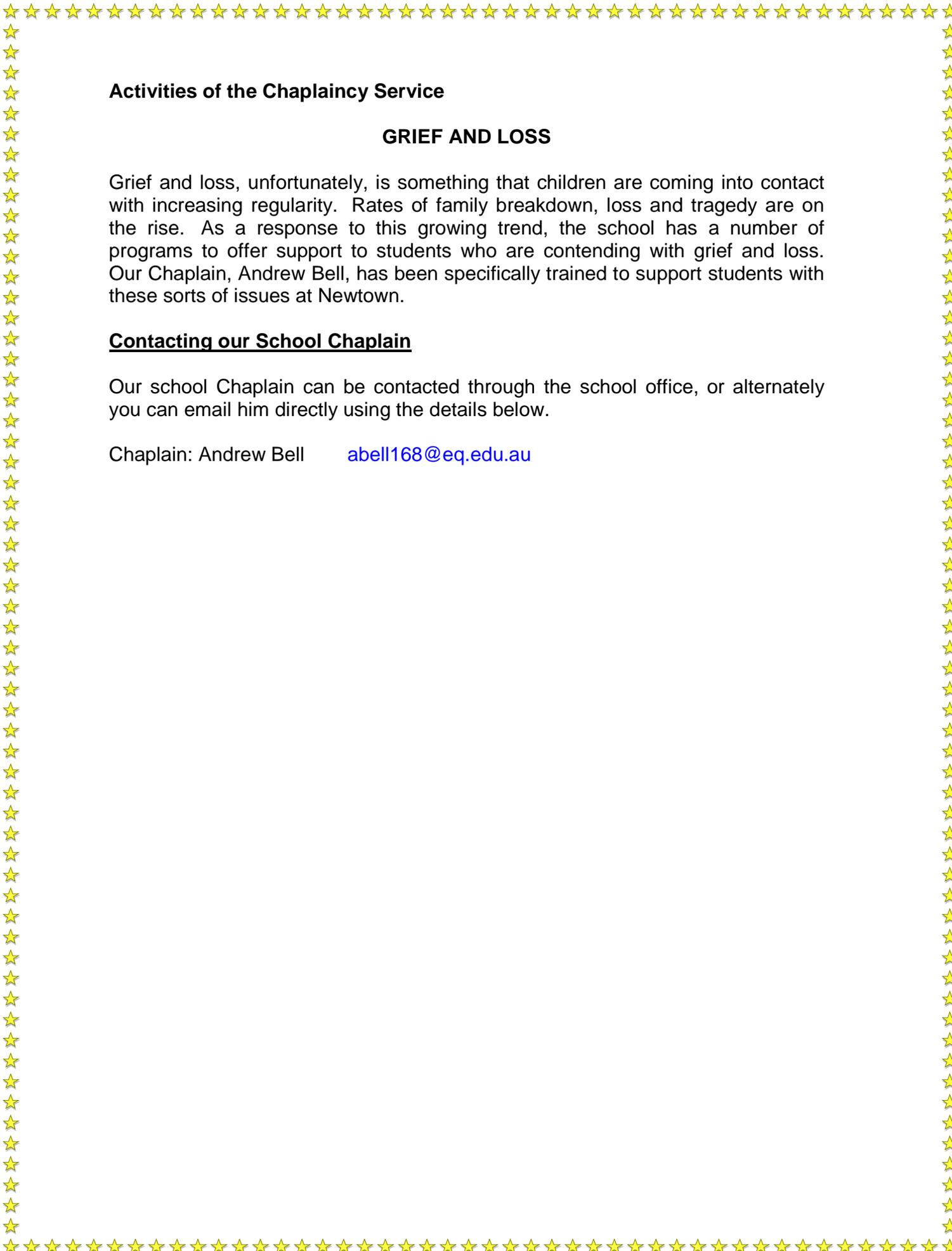
Parents/guardians are welcome to request a meeting with the Chaplain to discuss concerns related to their child or family. Stemming out of this conversation, one action may be to initiate ongoing 1 on 1 Chaplaincy support for their child.

4) Student Support Committee Initiated

Amongst the suite of options available to the Student Support Committee in terms of supporting students within the school is Chaplaincy support. When cases are discussed, Chaplaincy support may be deemed an option in the case of particular students. In such cases, that option will then be discussed with the parents and a permission form sent home for them to sign.

Grievances

Grievances about the operation of the chaplaincy services and / or chaplain are to be directed to Principal.



Activities of the Chaplaincy Service

GRIEF AND LOSS

Grief and loss, unfortunately, is something that children are coming into contact with increasing regularity. Rates of family breakdown, loss and tragedy are on the rise. As a response to this growing trend, the school has a number of programs to offer support to students who are contending with grief and loss. Our Chaplain, Andrew Bell, has been specifically trained to support students with these sorts of issues at Newtown.

Contacting our School Chaplain

Our school Chaplain can be contacted through the school office, or alternately you can email him directly using the details below.

Chaplain: Andrew Bell abell168@eq.edu.au