

Monday 20 April 2015

## Funding boost for pastoral care in WA schools

YouthCARE, Western Australia's leading provider of school chaplaincy services, is pleased with the State Government's announcement of additional funding.

The State Government's further investment in the program will ensure that every WA public school that applied for National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP) funding will now receive funding for an in-school chaplain.

According to Education Minister Hon Peter Collier, an extra \$2.7 million will be provided to an additional 179 public schools which missed out on NSCP funding for 2015-16.

YouthCARE Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stanley Jeyaraj said the news was welcomed by principals, teachers, parents, students and chaplains.

"Our chaplains care for the social, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of students, families and staff in public school communities throughout Western Australia," Mr Jeyaraj said.

"This support helps students achieve their potential, both academically and in their social and family lives."

With the additional funding, a total of 500 schools now have the resources to choose a YouthCARE chaplain to support their pastoral care program.

YouthCARE works alongside schools to develop a pastoral care program that is specific to the school's needs and requirements.

"Each school is unique in the support they need from us and our chaplains. We are considered part of the student services team in schools that choose us for their chaplaincy services," Mr Jeyaraj said.

YouthCARE chaplains have delivered chaplaincy programs in WA public schools for more than 32 years.

"We appreciate the support from the local community and all sectors of Government for this valuable school program, particularly the Minister for Education, Hon Peter Collier who with the Treasurer Dr Mike Nahan, have listened to principals and communities and acted decisively," he said.

"Community organisations such as local churches and businesses who support the work of YouthCARE will also welcome this announcement," Mr Jeyaraj said.

- ends -

**For more information: please contact Felicity Bond on 08 9376 5000**