

RURAL SCHOOLS

ICPA (Aust) welcomes the news that the Australian Government is investing \$247 million over four years (2019-2022) to renew the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP).

Students face a myriad of challenges in their day-to-day life that can impact on their education. School chaplains play an important role in the school communities assisting students who are struggling with issues of self-doubt, bullying, peer pressure, anxiety, family breakdown, impacts of family drug and alcohol use and more.

Due to the tyranny of distance, Guidance Officers are not as easily accessible for rural and remote schools and this is where the Chaplaincy Program is incredibly valuable.

With participating schools eligible to receive up to \$20,280 in metropolitan or regional areas and \$24,336 in remote or very remote areas, ICPA (Aust) welcomes this funding which will support approximately 3000 schools per year to access the services of a qualified chaplain. ICPA (Aust) requests a renewed focus and priority in providing access to these chaplaincy support services at our nation's most remote or very isolated areas.