**Bundamba Chaplaincy Service**

Chaplaincy Services provide spiritual, ethical, and personal support to school communities. SU Qld Chaplains provide positive adult role models for students. Chaplains are present in schools at the invitation of the Principal, in consultation with the local community, and with the support of the P&C Association.

Chaplaincy at Bundamba State School was instigated by parent request and the concept was welcomed by the Principal, staff and endorsed by the P&C.

Bundamba was successful in obtaining Chaplaincy funding through the Federal Government’s National School Chaplaincy Program in 2010. In 2011 we also applied and were successful in the State Government Chaplaincy / Student Welfare Funding Program. In 2012 the Federal Government expanded the funding for School Chaplaincy to continue until the end of 2014 and also provided the choice for funding to be provided for a Chaplaincy Service or Student Welfare Officer. Each year Bundamba State School undertakes a community consultation process consisting of information and feedback regarding chaplaincy via the school newsletter and monthly reports to the school P&C. Information of the consultation process is distributed via the school P&C to promote discussion in preparation for an annual vote to determine interest in continuing the program within the school. This process is part of the requirements to successfully receiving Federal Government funding.

**What does a School Chaplain do?**

A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

Working with other members of the school’s support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult peer relationships, maintaining friendships, poor self-esteem, family breakdown and building social and life skills. The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

**The Chaplain**

Andrea Erichsen took up the position as chaplain at the start of 2014 and is committed to encouraging students in the development of life skills and coping strategies that will enable them to make good choices and maximize their school and life experiences. Andrea’s goal is to build strong relationships with students through active participation in their world. Andrea uses a strength-based approach to working with children, where she recognizes that each student is a capable learner, with many strengths and skills. In the playground and the classroom, Andrea works with teaching staff to support the students in their social and emotional development. Andrea is a trained facilitator in the “Friends for Life” and “Fun Friends” which is a resilience building program.
At Bundamba State School

The Chaplain works under the direction of the Principal and Scripture Union Queensland, the premier chaplaincy-employing authority in Queensland schools and is the formal employer. Any concerns or complaints regarding the chaplaincy service at Bundamba State School should be raised with the School Principal.

Chappy's Role

- Provide emotional, social and spiritual support to students, families and staff.
- Build safe and supportive relationships with students, families and staff.
- Support the operation of the Student Services Committee.
- Interact with Teachers to support Students with Special needs, behavioural issues and personal struggles.
- Facilitate the “Friends” anxiety prevention/resilience building program and conducts social skilling programs for small groups.
- Support P&C in the school.
- Attend school camps.
- Facilitate the ‘Cool Room’ at breaks. The Cool Room is another space in the school where children can play during breaks, this room has games and toys available.
- Breakfast club Tuesday and Thursday in the sports hall.

Students may request to see the Chaplain on an individual basis for ongoing support in personal matters. Parents wishing this to take place can request a permission form from the school office and upon parental consent, the Principal will advise the Chaplain of the request and permission to proceed.

Chappy's Hours
Chappy is on site Monday to Thursday.

How can you contact Chappy?
Andrea is available for all Students, Parents and Staff at Bundamba State School. She welcomes the opportunity to talk with you, please do not hesitate to contact her to make an appointment.
Phone: 3816 6666
Email: aeric18@eq.edu.au
Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

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Any evaluation surveys conducted must ask participants if they are aware of the source of funding for the activity and, if so, how they became aware of the funding source.

The Funding Recipient must provide to the Australian Government or its agent, if requested, any National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program materials for placement on the Department’s website, or for use in any other Australian Government or Departmental publication.