



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

The University of Western Australia School of
Population and Global Health

STUDENT WELLBEING

The Impact of YouthCARE WA School Chaplaincy

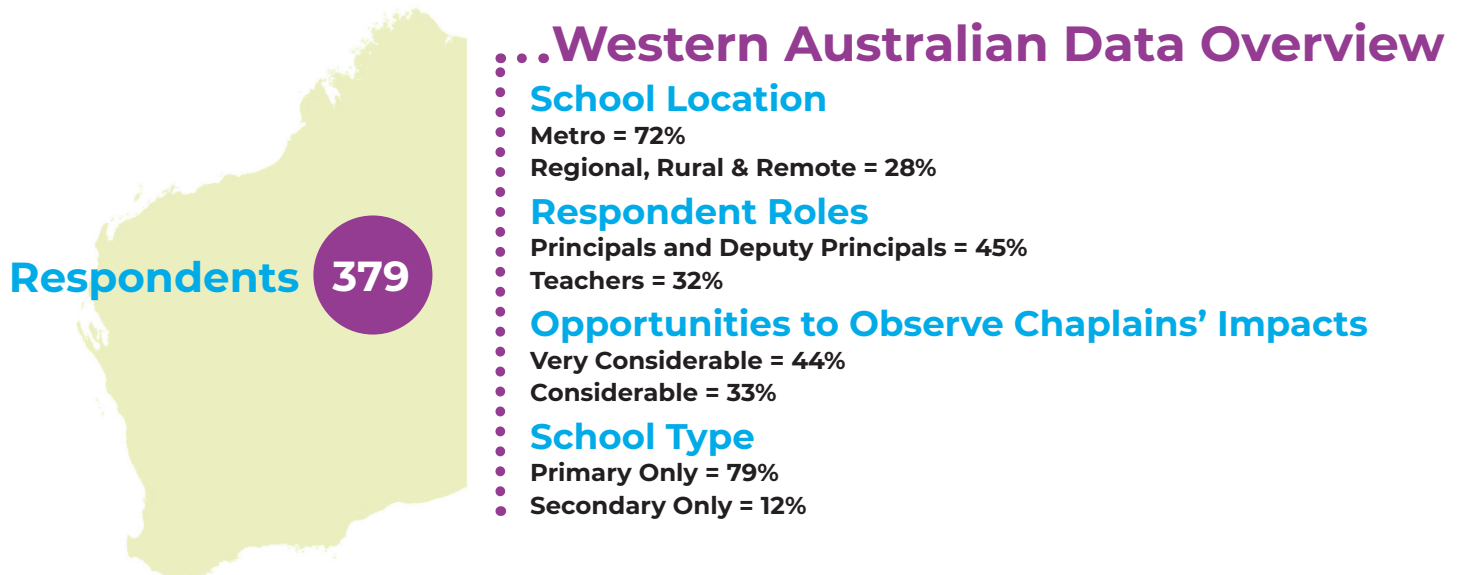
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The overall goal of the school chaplaincy program is to support the wellbeing of student and school communities through the provision of pastoral care services.

This independent research determines some immediate outcomes of chaplaincy work and confirms linkages to longer term outcomes suggested in earlier Program Logic. Insights drawn are represented using The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's (ARACY) Nest within which there are 6 domains of child and youth wellbeing.

During the 2021 school year, YouthCARE ran breakfast clubs, social and emotional sessions as well as leadership and mentoring sessions. Additionally, formal and informal interactions with students, staff and parents/carers numbered in the hundreds of thousands.



Nest
Theme

1

Being Valued, Loved and Safe

Positive Impact = 89% Game Changing = 59%

The overwhelming conclusion here is that chaplains have a considerable to very considerable impact on students feeling valued loved and safe.

"The chaplain in our school has provided a safe place and a calm presence to (sic) our students... and to staff."

Nest
Theme

2

Having Material Basics

Positive Impact = 75% Game Changing = 44%

From the collected data it was concluded chaplains had a positive impact on students having material basics.

"Our chaplain has supported families in getting food hampers, computers through other agencies... has a relationships with parents and the wider community... She provides support to staff at all times."

Nest
Theme
3

Being Healthy

Positive Impact = 80% Game Changing = 48%

Several of the most frequently used programs facilitated by chaplains were intended to address mental health, focusing on resilience and resourcefulness.

"Our chaplain assists both staff and parents with strategies to help children in a world that is forever changing..."

Her impact in supporting the mental health of our staff and students has been significant."

Nest
Theme
4

Learning

Positive Impact = 70% Game Changing = 33%

Positive impacts were delivered by facilitating a range of educational support programs including tutoring, transition, reading and practical life skills programs.

"By helping to support the students' mental, social and emotional wellbeing, they are able to focus better on their learning."

Nest
Theme
5

Participating

Positive Impact = 81% Game Changing = 44%

In practice, participating means children and youth are supported in expressing their views and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. Activities include student leadership, cadets, sports and musical programs.

"Our chaplain plays an incredibly important role within our school community. For students there is an extra advocate within the school for them and for families.

During this time of much change, she has worked alongside admin to support and thank staff for their efforts to maintain a happy and supportive environment."

Nest
Theme
6

Positive Sense of Culture and Identity

Positive Impact = 76% Game Changing = 44%

Each week chaplains had pastoral conversations with Indigenous students, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) students, LGBTQI students and refugee students. It's here that chaplains had a positive and considerable impact on students' sense of culture and identity.

"The chaplain is invaluable to our Student Services Department and has, I believe, made huge differences to a number of students.

(Our chaplain) is open to support all regardless of beliefs, ethnicity or gender. She also can refer students to the right type of follow up/support where needed."

Additional
Theme

Outcomes for the School Community

Positive Impact = 88% Game Changing = 70%

These figures confirm that chaplains' personal conversation and community development activities make a substantial contribution to the school community.

"The chaplaincy service is invaluable to our school. Our chaplain is one of the cornerstones of our school community. They provide such a range of support to our whole school community that we do not receive from other agencies, roles or staff."