

Progressive Atheists Inc.

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Proud Member of Atheist Alliance International

Allied with Secular Coalition of Australia



Victorian State Election Candidate Survey - November 2014

Candidate Comments - Question 2

Question 2. School Chaplaincy Program: are you in favour of the Victorian state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds?

Animal Justice Party | Eastern Metropolitan Region | EDGECOMBE, Brenton

I would need to do more research on this topic to give my answer. Obviously I'd do so if asked to vote but the time required is outside the bounds of your "10 question yes/no" survey.

Animal Justice Party | Southern Metropolitan Region | WALSHE, Nyree

In the past, voluntary instructors from the various religions attended high schools. I see no need for a School Chaplaincy Program at the level of expense to the taxpayer I have heard mentioned. However an equitable remuneration should be given to religious instructors if classes in ethics and community responsibility are provided as an alternative to religious instruction.

Animal Justice Party | Western Victoria Region | GAMBLE, Jennifer

I believe there needs to be chaplaincy/welfare officers for students. Not religious, but a resource for student support. This could be state or federally funded.

Australian Christians | Eastern Metropolitan Region | JANSON, Vickie

School Chaplaincy - quite open to state rather than federal funding but I do see this program as beneficial to many students.

Australian Country Alliance | Murray Plains District | WINN, Bryon

This is up to the parents and school committees.

Australian Country Alliance | Ripon District | DOMASCHENZ, Trevor

School chaplaincy program I don't know about except when I went to state school I had RI and don't feel disadvantaged because of it. I believe in god but it is mostly my god via country life. Everyone needs a crutch of some sort and the natural values on my farm are mine.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Cranbourne District | PERERA, Jude;
Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Mill Park District | D'AMBROSIO, Lily

We support the continuation of the program, but we believe that this should accommodate schools employing either a chaplain or a secular welfare worker as they determine for their school community. We will be taking the fight up to Tony Abbott to maintain these arrangements, and will consider our options if the Federal Government attempt to block us from doing so.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Dandenong District | WILLIAMS, Gabrielle;
Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Wendouree District | KNIGHT, Sharon

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Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Eltham District | WARD, Vicki

I am not in favour of Tony Abbott attempting to force Victoria to exclusively use Chaplains at the exclusion of counsellors.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Prahran District | PHARAOH, Neil

Only if it can be used to employ secular Welfare Officers.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Thomastown District | HALFPENNY, Bronwyn

I am in favour of school welfare/wellbeing officers to support children and students at school.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Northern Victoria Region | SYMES, Jaclyn

It depends on whether the Federal Funds can be redirected or not.

Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Western Victoria Region | PULFORD, Jaala

Religious instruction ought to be a matter for families to discuss at home and/or part of the curriculum, taught by qualified teachers.

Australian Sex Party - Victoria | Mordialloc District | CHELLEW, Tristram

I am strongly opposed to the school chaplaincy program as it currently stands. By taking funding away from secular counsellors the government has chosen to alienate vulnerable young people that do not follow the Christian faith. Given the vital position school counsellors hold in our school communities I propose government funding be directed to qualified counsellors that hold no religious bias. This will ensure our children have access to adequate counselling services free from the fear of discrimination based on their counsellors religious beliefs.

Independent | Bayswater District | CARBONARI, John

The retention of Australia's cultural heritage is supported.

Independent | Mildura District | CLUTTERBUCK, Jo

Chaplaincy only program could preclude schools from accessing other support services as required by their students

Independent | Pascoe Vale District | TIMPANO, Francesco

The information provided is inadequate to make a yes/no response or I am yet to adopt a firm position on the issue and am undertaking further study/research and analysis before deciding.

Independent | Eastern Victoria Region | DAVID, Jean-Michel

I am generally NOT in favour of this program. This question is however misleading, as school funds are generally obtained via taxation collected through the Federal Government. It should also be noted that the School Chaplaincy Program has significant differences from the previous similarly named federal program.

Independent (Save the Planet Party) | Frankston District | SMITH, Reade

I can only support a school chaplaincy style program if it funds and allows all religions to be represented.

The Basics Rock 'n' Roll Party | Northern Metropolitan Region | SCHROEDER, Kris

School Chaplaincy I am against. But many kids still come from families who are religious. It is important to have someone at the school - be is a health-care worker, a social worker (Chaplain shouldn't be the word, too loaded with Christian dogma) - that understands, as in my 1st point, the practicalities of the various faiths, so when a young Muslim girl comes for advice, the person is sensitive to their background and their particular set of values. I hope that makes sense, I suppose what I am in favour of is a sensitivity in the school system to the reality that many people still have faith. Young people are particularly vulnerable, and all care needs to be taken to appreciate where their issues may be coming from (which could indeed have arisen from a home life which is entrenched in a faith-based system).