



# Metropolitan Support Chaplain

## Introducing Steve Poisat

Feb 2014

Hello Madeley PS - I will be your Support Chaplain this year again!

I am a qualified as a Family Therapist and Counsellor, having worked in various roles as a youth and family counsellor for the past 20 years. I am married with one son in Year 4 and another in Year 10. I love fishing and surfing and anything to do with the beach! I have also been the fulltime "in school" chaplain at Balga SHS from 2007-2012 before taking on the role of a YouthCARE Support Chaplain (visiting schools that don't have their own 'in school' chaplain).

My role as a Support Chaplain is to be available to assist with the Pastoral Care and Support for staff, students and families, lending a hand with issues such as conflict, hardship, grief and loss, and to provide mentoring and guidance for social emotional wellbeing when requested. I often tell students that when we are feeling *mad, bad or sad*, we just need someone who can simply listen to us without always trying to "fix us"!

The core practice of our pastoral care is predominantly done through 'one on one' informal conversation with students, staff and carers/parents. I am also available to assist in classes with any existing social/emotional life skills programs that the school runs or offer a selection of BUZ Programmes (BuildUpZone.com) for year 2's-6's that run for 6-8 weeks and cover a broad range of life skills including: *building resilience, protective behaviours, bully-proofing, relationship skills, overcoming fear, handling grief and resolving conflict*.

Access to the chaplaincy service will be through your Principal and Deputy, who will contact me, as needs requiring my support come to their attention.

I work 3 days a week as a YouthCARE Chaplain and my scheduled visits to Madeley PS this year will be Tuesdays before and after lunch, however I am available anytime for critical incidences. I also service 4 other schools requiring some flexibility in my visits in order to allow for attending any critical incidences that may occur in another of my schools.

I am extremely hopeful and excited about partnering with, and serving your school community to the best I can.

Kind regards,



Steve Poisat

Metropolitan Support Chaplain

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***A Chaplain is like a COACH...***

I will share an acronym that a year 6 student helped me come up with at the close of 2013, as he reflected on the journey we had travelled together throughout the year.

This particular student was referred to me early in the year for low self-esteem and bullying related issues. We met one-on-one for mentoring most weeks of each term last year and worked through a variety of topics.

These are his ideas (of which I helped him word more concisely) based on his experience of what a chaplain is:

***A Chaplain is like a COACH... he is not playing the game with you but he is on the sidelines cheering you on and taking time out to help you keep your eye on the ball and improve your game. When you fail he is not disappointed with you, he just offers his hand to help you get up again and keep going:***

**C**onfidence building and conflict resolution

**O**bjectives and goals to grow and mature

**A**vailable for a chat and listens respectfully

**C**ompassionate and comforting through hard times

**H**elpful ideas and life skill strategies that work

I was encouraged and thought that this was a great way of summarising what school chaplains all over the state are all doing week in and week out!