HIGH COURT CHALLENGE UPDATE - not just a threat to Chaplaincy

This week, the long awaited 2nd High Court Challenge will be underway. First, the Plaintiff presents his case. Lawyers will argue that the federal legislation to fund community programs is invalid and should be overturned in its entirety, not just for school chaplaincy. Then, SU gets a chance to be heard by the court. Together with the Commonwealth Gov’t representatives, SU QLD will outline the strength and benefits of school chaplaincy and will argue why federal funding should continue. The plaintiff wants the court to overturn the legislation, which supports more than 400 community-focused programs. Chaplaincy is just one of those. If the plaintiff wins, the landscape of federal support of communities across Australia will be thrown into complete disarray. We shouldn’t want this to happen! As you know, Chaplaincy is highly valued by schools around the nation. It is supported by students, teachers and principals in more than 3000 Australian schools, and we look forward to presenting its many benefits tomorrow. I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support. It’s thanks to friends like you that our School Chaplains are able to do such vital work with our youth and children.

SU Q’ld CEO Peter James, from outside the High Court in Canberra, said this on May 6th, in an on-line preamble found at www.suqld.org.au -

Well, after 10 months of preparation, here we are at the High Court of Australia, in Canberra. What we’re really hoping for in this hearing is that the legal argument won't swamp all of the good work that Chaplains do; that we’ll get a chance, despite all of the technicalities, to talk about School Chaplains in schools; to talk about the way schools who have a chaplain are keen for the program to continue; and about the enormous support around the country for school chaplaincy. So, we’re looking forward to the opportunity to make our arguments. For so many of you who have journeyed with us, I just wanted to say thank you for your support! It’s been tremendous. I stand here today encouraged and knowing that there are literally thousands of people 'with us' as we make the case for School Chaplaincy. So, thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 60% of Q’ld state schools have a chaplain.
- 500 state schools in Queensland are still without a chaplain
- SU QLD has placed chappies in 61% of all Queensland State Primary schools and in 77% of all Queensland State High schools.
- Right now, our chappies are serving over 375,000 QLD students

CHAPPY WEEK

MAY 19th - 26th 2014

Here in Queensland, the week of May 19th - 26th is designated as Chappy Week, an annual event run by SU QLD to raise awareness of the value of school chaplains, and to raise funds to support school chaplains. Schools and communities get on board, hosting special events and taking to the streets for their ‘chappy’. A wide variety of events and activities are planned as part of the statewide celebrations. Perhaps the most anticipated of these events, in our area, is the annual Mayor’s Breakfast, which will be held from 6.30am to 8.30am on Tuesday, May 20th in the Bundaberg Civic Centre, Bourbong Street. The doors open at 6.15am. This is also your opportunity to hear Guest Speaker, Petero Civoniceva, discuss his NRL career, how he has worked with children through that career and how, in his new role as the NRL Community Engagement Ambassador, he is working with communities and school children to show them the wider benefits of participating in rugby league.

$25 Tickets to the breakfast can be purchased at the Bundaberg Council Office. Phone 1300 883 699. Bookings close on May 12th.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE EDITOR - SEE NOTE AT LEFT.

NOTE - If you are a bit late and miss out on getting tickets, then the kind Editor of Childers Chappy Chatter has 5 tickets that have been pre-purchased. So if you really want to go and are happy to reimburse the Editor, please contact him using the details on the bottom of page 2.
BROOKE HARTSHORN is our newest Chaplain and is working at Cordalba State School, two days a week.

SHANE TURNER is our Chappy at Childers State School for three days a week and also at Goodwood State School for one day a week.

RALPH THURLOW is Chaplain to Isis District State High School for three days a week and also does one day a week at Dallarnil State School.

Cordalba Chaplain Commissioned

Apologies for this news being announced so late but on the last day of February, Friday 28th, the whole of Cordalba State School, staff and students, and some invited guests, participated in the Commissioning of their new School Chaplain, as part of their school assembly.

A Commissioning is an event scheduled by the school but with Local Chaplaincy Committee Members present, and whenever possible, a Scripture Union representative. BROOKE HARTSHORN was welcomed to the school community by Principal Matthew Parsons, answered a few questions about the role asked by SU Bundaberg District Chaplain Co-ordinator, Lisa Hardie, and received some words of wisdom and support from local Church representatives and LCC Members. Some Chaplaincy colleagues also attended as did some parents and friends of the school.

Brooke will be at Cordalba School on most Tuesdays and Fridays. This is her first Chaplaincy position and she is looking forward to meeting lots of people, getting to know the students and their families, liaising with staff, and being a strong and visible support for the school community.

Support Chaplaincy Financially

On the Scripture Union website - www.suqld.org.au or by sending an email to servicecentre@suqld.org.au - you can get information on organising a once only or regular direct debit donation. You can nominate all or part of your donation to Scripture Union Chaplaincy generally, or allocate the funds to a particular School, District or Local Chaplaincy Committee, that you would like to support. You can even support Chaplains in places where other family members are at school, or get them to support your Chaplain. These forms or details allow your financial institution to link with the NAB which looks after Scripture Union. Of course, for any tax deductible donations over $2 you can receive a receipt and most receipts for this sort of process are sent out mid-year, unless you specify otherwise. Consider donating.

National Volunteer Week

SU QLD has been operating in schools for more than 23 years now... but long before our first chaplain set foot in a schoolyard, SU QLD volunteers were serving and ministering to young people across the state. At its heart, SU QLD is a volunteer organisation. We couldn’t survive without them – and that’s true both inside and outside the school grounds.

Any chaplain will tell you that their work couldn’t happen without the support of committed, compassionate volunteers. Sometimes they organise breakfast clubs or sausage sizzles, sometimes they help run lunch-time programs or help their chappy put on exciting events. They help with graphic design; send out meeting agendas and minutes; administer, monitor and report about finances; bake and clean up and generally go out of their way to serve the next generation of young people in our schools.

May 12-18 is National Volunteer Week, and I want to take a moment to honour those volunteers who are really the heart and soul of SU QLD. In 2014, more than 4,500 people will volunteer time on an SU QLD camp, in an LCC, or in a school standing alongside their local chaplain. Can you imagine the dent it would leave if we didn’t have such wonderful volunteers?

So, as a former SU QLD camper and volunteer myself, let me say a huge and resounding ‘Thank you!’ to all our volunteers who give up your own time and energy for the sake of our young people. We literally couldn’t do it without you!

Warm regards, Peter James, CEO, SU QLD

NewsLetter Contact

You may have received this issue of Childers Chappy Chatter as a printed paper copy, or it may have arrived by email. If you know of someone else who may like to receive it regularly, as a printed copy, posted or by email, please contact the Editor, whose details appear below; or any member of the Local Chaplaincy Committee from your school, church or community group.

Questions on Chaplaincy or more information related to anything in this Newsletter can be directed to:-

Peter Taubner - P.O. Box 532, Childers. Phone 4126 1735 or 0402 288 835. Email p.taubner@exemail.com.au