PETITION ON THE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain concerned citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the discriminatory character of the *National School Chaplaincy Program* which was introduced by the Coalition Government and extended by present Prime Minister.

Rather than being a resource for children to call on when in need, it has allowed unqualified persons, who would not normally be granted access to schools, to promote religious programs against the wishes of many parents. In our diverse and multi-cultural society, with many religions and belief systems, it is the government's moral and ethical responsibility to maintain the separation of Church and State - especially in our public schools - to ensure a cohesive community where one interest group is not privileged over any other.

We therefore ask the House to ensure that only persons qualified in social work, counselling or psychology at a recognised tertiary institution in Australia - regardless of their or their institutions religious views - be permitted to provide genuine support for our children under the Chaplaincy program.

PRINCIPAL PETITIONER

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Signature

NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE