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# Your support helps chaplains be there for flood victims



Thanks to your support, Chappy Sel (right) has been helping Shannon (left) and Kobe (centre) find their feet after the Bundaberg flood disaster.

Shannon Woodman is a single mum, raising her 6-year-old son Kobe. Her house was one of the first to be inundated when flood waters rose in Bundaberg in January, with more than a foot of water rushing through the second storey of her home. She lost everything.

"I managed to save some of Kobe's clothes and his toys," Shannon says. "But I lost all his photos, his Kindy paintings and his first baby books. I can't get that back. I never will. That's the most gut-wrenching thing."

Thanks to the support of friends like you, SU QLD was able to work with Global Care and Citicoast Church in Bundaberg to coordinate thousands of donations to school students and their families. Each day, chaplains and school support teams were provided with fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as other necessary supplies, for struggling families.

Thanks to you, SU QLD was also able to give away hundreds of vouchers for those families most in need to help provide them with back-to-school supplies.

"The vouchers have been fantastic," says Chappy Sel from North Bundaberg State School. "They've just provided a little bit of comfort, and showed that people really do care. We had students coming back to school without uniforms, books, supplies — even shoes. Listening to their stories is really heartbreaking. Getting alongside the kids now has been a real privilege."

Shannon connected with Chappy Sel last year when Kobe began Prep. "She's an angel, she really is," Shannon...

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## Thank you for helping get young people back to school



SU QLD chaplains are helping flood-affected families get their children back to school, thanks to the support of friends like you!

The heart of SU QLD has always been for children and young people. When the floods struck in Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Maryborough and right down through Gympie, Ipswich and Logan, thousands of young people were directly impacted. Schools were closed, families were cut off from food and supplies, and dozens of homes were destroyed.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to help a number of these communities in very tangible, practical ways. SU QLD launched an immediate flood response plan, called the 'School Essentials Program'. We released an initial \$50,000 package to provide shopping gift cards aimed at helping families purchase new shoes, uniforms, bags, books and stationery supplies to replace what

had been lost. These are such simple needs, and yet so profoundly comforting to school children who are looking for a trace of normality in the midst of crisis.

The need in these areas is incredible and will remain a significant issue for many months to come. Our financial support is important, but the true strength of the chaplaincy program lies in the ability of our chaplains to walk with these students over the longhaul, listening and supporting them as they regroup and move forward. And, because of your support over summer, 34 new chaplains in 52 schools are doing just that, with many more starting soon.

Thank you for making their work possible!

SU QLD, partnering with Network Communications, teamed up with Optus and Red Frogs to deliver flood support.



## Partnering on the frontlines

For almost a decade, Network Communications has been partnering with SU QLD through their generous financial support and their Chaplaincy Mobile Plan. But the two organisations had an opportunity to partner in a whole new way when the floods struck in January.

“The devastation has been heartbreaking,” says Network Communications General Manager, Stephen Jeffs. “One of our retail stores in Bundaberg was destroyed, but in the scheme of things we haven’t lost much when you consider the many people across the state whose homes and property have been taken from them.”

In conjunction with the Red Frogs team and Optus, Network Communications and SU QLD distributed more than 200 mobile phones to families in urgent need. Many had lost everything, including their phones, and communication was a vital need for those families.

We are incredibly grateful for all our business partners and supporters, and it is fantastic to see how these partnerships are making a real and tangible difference to students and families in need.

“Working with SU QLD is not just about investing into an organisation that serves our communities,” concludes Stephen, “it’s an investment into the lives of our young people.”

Call John Scott on 0414 474 745 if you would like to find out about the Chaplaincy Mobile Plan, or how your organisation can partner with SU QLD to impact the next generation.



Thanks to your support, chaplains like Sel (right), from North Bundaberg State School, and school support teams could help provide fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as other necessary supplies, for struggling flood-affected families.

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... says. “Kobe couldn’t wait to get back to school this year. But his school books and shirts went under — they’re in the mud — as well as his socks, his lunch box... I brought him to school with what we had... and Chappy Sel was there with her big smiles and those little things we really needed. She came through for us.

“We managed to save the most important things,” Shannon concludes, “Kobe and me. We’ll start from

there and we’ll regroup. I don’t know how yet, but we’ll find a way... and with all the support from friends and the community, we’re getting there... slowly.”

Please see the response form enclosed if you’d like to help support our chaplains in flood-affected areas of Queensland. Thank you for helping SU QLD be there for flood-affected young people and their families!

# Untold tales of your support at work

With your help, more than 530 school chaplains are quietly caring for young people across our state.



We hear so many stories every week about the help young people are receiving from their chappies that it’s impossible to share them all! So here are just two stories made possible through your support.

### Tammy\* — Year 4

“Tammy is sweet and thoughtful, and I’m always impressed with her ability to function so well in a very dysfunctional family. Not long ago, Tammy’s counsellor was alerted to the fact that she, at nine years of age, had plans to take her own life. While her counsellor helped her work through her very significant issues, I provided moments of joy and laughter to help her heal. Tammy and I meet a few times each week to do something fun together, and I will keep working hard to make sure she knows she’s loved, precious and appreciated.”

### Isaac\* — Year 6

“Isaac was the angriest boy I had ever met. He missed his mother and was furious at his father for sending her away. I spent a lot of time helping him when he was too angry to engage in class. For five years I worked with Isaac and his mum as they struggled to work on their relationship. He came to me whenever he needed to calm down. On his last day of class he thanked me for believing in him, and told me with a big grin that he’d need to find the chaplain at his new school because he simply couldn’t manage without the support.”

\*The students’ names have been changed and some details omitted to protect their privacy.

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SU QLD Chappy Malcolm is working with young people in detention to turn their situations around.



# Chappy brings hope to detention centre

*Malcolm Covele's school isn't in the bush or next to the beach. It's in the middle of a detention centre. Malcolm has been the chaplain in the Brisbane Youth and Education Training Centre at Wacol for three of the last four years, and this is his unique story...*

I've been a school chaplain for 11 years at a few different schools, but it's a pretty unique environment here at the centre. Everything is under strict supervision and very disciplined.

Sometimes kids are here for fairly serious offences, and they may do five or six years here before they're moved across to the adult correctional facility. I never ask why they're here. I don't want to sound judgemental, and the wrong question can trigger a negative response in some kids.

I run optional classes throughout the week where kids can choose to come along if they want to ask some deeper questions. They're really interested in those because some of these kids are dealing with pretty serious moral questions.

There's a small ward here for when the boys get sick or injured, and I spend a bit of time there. Other times I visit them at a place called "Oak". It's like solitary confinement, and kids can be sent there for a day — or a number of days — if they've been misbehaving or are seen to be a threat to the other kids.

For the most part, my role is really just about getting to know the boys. I'll sit and have lunch with them and hear their stories. There are some really great characters in here. They have nothing to hide because it's all on the record anyway, so they're really open about everything.

These are kids who've done the wrong thing, but if they're directed the right way then there are some potentially great leaders here, with great people skills. They could really go far if they were on the other side of the track. I'm glad SU QLD has a chaplain here, and I'm glad we're here to stay!

*Thank you for helping make unique work like Malcolm's possible through your support. Through your generosity, you are impacting many lives in schools... and even detention centres... across Queensland.*



## Corporate supporters 'Spin Off' for chaplaincy

The first-ever Spin Off Gym Bike Challenge kicked off at the Sleeman Sports Centre in Brisbane last October. Teams of 10 competed for glory over the course of three half-hour sprints, and thousands of dollars were raised for school chaplaincy!

"It was a huge buzz!" says Julie, a chaplain from Morayfield State School who signed up two teams for Spin Off. "I showed the flyer to some of our Year 7 students and leaders from our youth group, and they were in! Then our local Member of Parliament, Mr Darren Grimwade, signed up for the team. We all hit the pavement, and together the students and I raised \$2,960 for my chaplaincy in just a couple of weeks!"

With the hard work of fundraising behind them, the two teams from Morayfield rolled up... and came first in both their categories, winning some great prizes.

This year there is a new category open to corporate and business partners. If you have a heart for young people and you've been searching for a fun, energetic way to contribute to this great organisation, think about fielding a team on 18 May at the second annual Spin Off event.

*If you or your business would like to field a team and help support school chaplaincy, call Lynette Maxwell, SU QLD's Events Manager, on 07 3112 6418.*

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Peter James, CEO of SU QLD

# Driving cattle to bring hope to rural kids



The Stock Up for Hope Charity Drove helps young people in rural and regional Queensland through school chaplaincy support.

## From the CEO to you

Dear Friend,

“All children deserve a safe and happy childhood.” Those important words begin the document establishing the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia.

Over the next three years, as the Royal Commission does its work, the Australian community is likely to hear many tragic stories about the innocence and trust of children being betrayed and of instances where institutions have failed to support the child. Abuse is sickening, and it is an important part of the life-long healing process that victims have an opportunity to be heard and supported on that journey.

Our chaplains play a critical role in supporting children who have been the victims of abuse, in standing with the children as they go through the trauma of investigation, and in being there with them through the healing process.

Seeking the safety and happiness of children is a fundamental part of what we do at SU QLD. In this issue of Frontline News you will read about the way SU QLD has been able to serve communities in flood-affected areas across Queensland, about our chaplains hard at work in youth detention centres, and the untold tales of how chaplains are supporting and encouraging children through the tough times in their lives.

2013 promises to be a year of great opportunity for us as we continue to bring hope to a young generation. As always, I'm deeply grateful for your support, gifts and other sacrifices. This work is only possible because of faithful friends like you.

Warm regards,

**Peter James**  
CEO, SU QLD

Too many young people in remote areas of Queensland are losing the battle against drugs, depression, relationship breakdown and suicide. Throw into the mix bushfires, floods and cyclones, and it's obvious that life in the bush can be very tough for young people and families.

Starting on 1 September and adventuring through the outback for three weeks, the fourth biennial Stock Up for Hope Charity Drove will raise vital funds to help support chaplains in rural and regional communities across the state.

Working in partnership with SU QLD, the Artesian Foundation will host this great event, a unique experience that links together corporate Australia, community leaders and cattle producers to generate resources and exposure for the largest network of youth workers in Australia — SU QLD school chaplains.

*If you or your business would like to know more about how you can support this initiative, call John Scott on 0414 474 745.*

## Chaplains help balance education and wellbeing

**by Steve Forward**  
**RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

Education Queensland recently developed their 'Learning and Wellbeing Framework', which outlines how the elements of school curriculum, school environment, policy and community partnerships can be harnessed to enhance both students' wellbeing and their learning outcomes.

SU QLD wholeheartedly supports this commitment to develop "happy, healthy and confident young people". And it is clear that chaplains are already contributing to the wellbeing and learning outcomes of students.

Chaplains promote positive school environments, "providing pastoral care for students, support for staff and safe social spaces", according to the framework. Chaplains provide this service on a one-

on-one basis, but also facilitate breakfast clubs, lunch-time activities, "peer support and personal development programs that meet the needs of various student groups".

In these groups, chaplains "address specific social and emotional competencies that equip students to understand and manage themselves and their relationships". Chaplains are highly valued for their ability "to build positive relationships" with children, young people, parents and staff members, as well as in "building positive networks and partnerships" with churches and organisations in the broader community.

Thanks to your support SU QLD is well placed to contribute to the goals of Education Queensland's Learning and Wellbeing Framework, and we are looking forward to helping the frameworks find expression in their specific school contexts.



**BRINGING hope TO**  
**A YOUNG GENERATION**

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