PASTORAL CARE
My name is Jennifer Pearce; it is a delightful and humble honour to be School Chaplain at Cloncurry State School in North Queensland West Region. We currently have 350 students from Pre-school to Grade 12 with 51% being Indigenous Australian. A mining town of Iron, copper and gold we see families from across the country and overseas embracing the lifestyle.

A Chaplaincy program is an optional service introduced into a state school to provide students, staff, and parents/carers with support which may have a religious and/or spiritual component. A Chaplain is sensitive to and respectful of people who hold beliefs and values different from their own. Therefore, a non-judgemental support is provided, regardless of religious beliefs and not prohibiting the expression of other religious perspectives. Chaplaincy services provide an additional adult role model in schools. Furthermore, a Chaplain nurtures the Christian and non-Christian students, engages with the school community and provides a safe and supportive environment to students to equip them to make the right choices, academically and socially.

A school’s chaplaincy program complements other support services in the school such as those offered by the Guidance Officer. The Chaplain is not a counsellor however and any issues of concern are referred to the Principal who is responsible for the external referral process.

I find being a Chaplain is a very rewarding and challenging role. Some effective components of my role as School Chaplain include:

- Breakfast Club Monday to Friday being available to all students.
- Mentor Student Council leaders and assist them to engage in community projects.
- Herb and flower garden as a tactile therapy for disengaged students.
- Ongoing garden projects with students to beautify the school grounds.
- Youth group for both junior and senior students to enhance their spiritual growth.
- Regular story time and singing to the Preschool and Grade 1 students.
- Community fundraising to support the Chaplaincy program.
- Finally, I am available to talk to all members of our School community Monday to Friday during School hours. Always happy to discuss any concerns parents/carers may have over a cuppa.

Miss Jenny
SPECIAL NEEDS

At Cloncurry State School we encourage inclusive practice for students with disabilities and learning difficulties. We promote access to, participation in and quality educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Adjustments are made for students with disabilities to enable them to access the curriculum, achieve curriculum outcomes and participate in school life.

Specialised services for students with disabilities provide educational support arising from Autism Spectrum Disorder, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Impairment, Physical Impairment, Speech-Language Impairment, Vision Impairment or a combination of these. Visiting professionals are available to support students with disabilities. These include: Guidance Officers, Advising Visiting Teachers, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech-Language Pathologists and Nurses. Many of these professionals visit students at school to assess their educational needs and assist teachers in developing programs.

Special Needs Teacher

The Special Needs Teacher works with students who have been verified or are in the data gathering stages of the Verification process. All Verified students have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that the Special Needs Teacher, along with visiting Specialist and the Classroom Teacher, work together on, with support given by the Teacher Aides. Verified students are an inclusive member of the classroom and work to a modified program given by the classroom teacher.
The Guidance Counsellor (or Guidance Officer) is a person who has qualifications and training in personal counselling, careers counselling and psycho-educational assessment. A Student’s educational progress may be affected by a number of issues which may need to be addressed to ensure they are able to work effectively towards their goals while at school.

These issues can include career goals, parent-adolescent relationships, grief and loss, peer relationships as well as mental health concerns. Counselling with the School Guidance Officer is offered on a short-term basis. If a student requires continued or specialist counselling or support, the Guidance Officer can facilitate the referral of a student to outside agencies or support networks.

Within the school, the counsellor works with other members of the school support team, administration and teaching staff for the benefit of the student. Cognitive abilities may also be assessed by the Guidance Officer if the Classroom Teacher refers a student for academic concerns.

**How to see the Guidance Officer**
Our Guidance Officer, Meegan Brown, is at Cloncurry State School every Wednesday and Thursday. Secondary school students may see the Guidance Officer by making an appointment through the Administration staff in the Office. Primary school students may see the Guidance Officer by first speaking to their class teacher who will determine if a Guidance Officer referral is appropriate. The class teacher may then complete the referral forms and bring these to a Student Services Meeting. Signed parent permission is required for Primary school students to see the Guidance Officer.
My name is Patsy Tyrrell and I am the CEC for Cloncurry State School. I have been in this role for a couple of years now and am finding new challenges with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students every day.

My role as Community Education Counsellor in the school is to support the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students within the school community. My role is to provide cross-cultural awareness training to the broader school community in order to enhance a better understanding and empathy for the educational and related social needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. I also like to interact with the students in the classroom so that I can monitor the behaviour of some of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Parent & teacher liaison is also encouraged by me when the teachers need to make contact with parents about their students. Home visits are also on the agenda when the occasion arises. I also support the Admin team in the office to monitor Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students' attendances at school.
SCHOOL BASED HEALTH NURSE

Queensland Health employs School Based Youth Health Nurses (SBYHN) who work in secondary schools across Queensland, including Schools of Distance Education. These nurses focus on preventative health for young people and provide:

- a confidential health service
- health information to students, teachers and the school community
- intervention and links to other services as required.

How the SBYHN can support your teenager

Confidential Student Appointments

Your teenager can make an appointment with the SBYHN to discuss any questions they have about their health. These appointments are confidential, and the nurse will not share any information without the student’s consent unless there is a risk to the student’s health in not sharing this information with others.

In most cases, it is best for young people to talk to their parents about health and wellbeing issues. The SBYHN can support young people to do this.

Some of the main issues for which young people access a SBYHN are mental health, including social and emotional wellbeing, relationships, stress, eating issues, sexual and reproductive health, drugs (including tobacco and alcohol) and growth and development.

Our School Based Health Nurse is Jennifer Wood. Jenny visits the school every Wednesday and has implemented the following programs to our school so far this year:

- ‘High Talk’ – personal health program for students in year 8 -12
- ‘Girls with a Purpose’ – an after school program for teenage girls, helping them to gain confidence and make positive life choices. This is co-delivered with our Youth Support Coordinator.
Youth Support Coordinator

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting all young people to complete their education in order to enhance opportunities for further education and sustainable employment.

The Youth Support Coordinator Initiative (YSCI) recognises that many young people in the compulsory phase of education face difficulties in staying at school or making a transition to further education, training and/or employment.

Youth Support Coordinators undertake a vital role in helping at-risk students to re-engage with their schooling, transition to further education, training or employment and reach their full potential.

Our Youth Support Coordinator is Jodie Shipley. Jodie is at our school two days a week and is currently supporting many of our students with career advice and support to stay in school or transition into employment.

Jodie works closely with the school based nurse to deliver programs such as ‘Girls with a Purpose’ and is a valuable asset to our school.
Our Indigenous Support Officer in 2012 is Ronald ‘Hombre’ Major.

Hombre grew up in Cloncurry and has a wealth of knowledge about our local indigenous culture. Hombre supports our teachers in embedding indigenous perspectives into our curriculum and has already this year taken each class on bushwalks to showcase our local ‘bush tucker’.

He loves teaching students to play the didgeridoo and indigenous artworks.

Hombre is a valuable support person to our students as he knows all of the students and is a positive person for them to go to when in need of support.