

For immediate release – 9 June 2021

## Connecting with students motivates school chaplain

A strong belief that “there is no greater love, or person for students to connect with, than Jesus” is the driving motivation behind Aaron Schick’s work as School Chaplain at Carinity Education Rockhampton.

With over 13 years of experience as a chaplain in the state school system, Aaron now works for Carinity two days per week, providing pastoral care and guidance to children who have experienced difficulties succeeding in mainstream schools.

He joined Carinity following a recommendation from his church pastor that the role would maximise the impact he has on young peoples’ lives while providing additional opportunities for his own personal growth.

“As a school chaplain, I’m here to assist students and the community discover Jesus and the life to be found following him,” Aaron explains.

Aaron’s role sees him provide students with the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations regarding life and faith, provide a connection to the local church and explore opportunities to build deeper connections with the broader community, such as encouraging interaction with local youth groups.

He also engages with staff, discussing faith, church and God with them on a regular basis to assist them in their ongoing efforts to provide spiritual support to students.

According to Carinity Education Rockhampton Principal, Lyn Harland, Aaron’s role is an integral part of the school environment.

“Aaron brings a Godly presence and compassionate ear for the students - someone who is unrelated to their school work who is there to listen to them. They appreciate his non-judging personality,” Lyn says.

“He meets the students at their level and builds genuine, quality relationships with them. On a personal note, Aaron brings a breath of fresh air that helps my staff and I take stock of the world around us. He gives us strength in times of adversity.”

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Aaron is one of several chaplains supporting students in five Carinity Education schools across Queensland, located in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Townsville, Hervey Bay and Brisbane.

When asked about the importance of the annual Carinity Chaplains Appeal, Aaron was passionate about the role that supporters' prayers and financial contributions can make.

"We need our communities to connect with Jesus and grow in love. Chaplains provide a greater chance for this to occur," he says.

"Your support means we can continue providing the spiritual support that is so integral to a young person's holistic wellbeing."

You can support the work of Carinity chaplains by donating to the 2021 Carinity Chaplains Appeal at [carinity.org.au/donations](https://carinity.org.au/donations). Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

## ENDS

### PHOTO CAPTION:

Aaron Schick is impacting on young peoples' lives as the new school chaplain at Carinity Education Rockhampton.

#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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### **ABOUT CARINITY**

Since 1949, Carinity as an outreach of Queensland Baptists has been making a real difference in people's lives through comprehensive and integrated community services. These include caring for the frail aged in their homes or in integrated seniors' communities, helping families and young people through difficult times, and supporting people with disability. Carinity also provides shelters for homeless youth, alternative education for teenagers who struggle in traditional schools, and prison and hospital chaplaincy.