



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**20 June 2022**

## **FamilyVoice Seeks Commitment on School Chaplaincy**

The announcement by the Hon Jason Clare MP Minister for Education on Friday 17th June that the government intends to give schools a choice of whether to hire a religious or secular pastoral care worker through the \$60m-a-year program requires a commitment from the Minister for the on-going funding of the Schools Chaplaincy Program.

“FamilyVoice worked closely on the Chaplaincy Program with the former education minister Alan Tudge MP, and at the time the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, now Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese to ensure a commitment to school chaplaincy,” said Greg Bondar, FamilyVoice spokesman.

In point of fact, FamilyVoice had a commitment from Labor regarding the Chaplaincy Program which confirmed, to paraphrase:

**Labor strongly believes that every student should have access to the wellbeing support they need. Our priority is making sure students have the support they need at school so they can focus on learning. Labor values the hard work and commitment of school chaplains, counsellors and support staff who play a key role in student welfare. Labor has consistently supported the chaplains program.**

**Students’ wellbeing is vitally important to how they learn. Labor is committed to give schools the option to choose either a professionally qualified secular student welfare officer or a chaplain with ongoing qualification requirements, to ensure that our students are appropriately supported.**

“FamilyVoice now seeks a commitment from the Education Minister that the Chaplaincy Program will be upheld as promised in the pre-election communication to FamilyVoice Australia,” added Bondar.

Further details:

**Greg Bondar - 0411 854 115**