

## **Sports Chaplaincy Australia**

Serving the Australian Sport Community

### **History and Background of Sports Chaplaincy in Australia**

- SCA was established in 1984 with the appointment of the first Australian Cricket Chaplain
- SCA is the sole peak body providing chaplains to sport in Australia
- Our chaplains are highly competent and dedicated men and women who serve their sports community providing pastoral care
- They are accredited, trained and abide by a professional code of conduct
- SCA is a Christian non-denominational not-for-profit network
- We have close ties with the AIS, AFL, NRL and other major sporting codes
- Whilst serving predominantly in high-performance sport many new chaplains are now appointed to local clubs and events
- We have over 200 chaplains serving in 20+ codes in all states of Australia
- All our chaplains serve in an honorary and casual capacity

### **Where We Serve**

Test & Shield Cricket • Motor Racing • Tennis • Rugby League • Rugby Union • Australian Rules • Basketball • Athletics • Softball • Baseball • Soccer • Golf • Skiing & Winter Sports • Australian & State Institutes of Sport • Masters Games • Fishing • Sports Academies • Camping & Adventure • Extreme Sports • Paralympics • Lawn Bowls • Pony & Horse Clubs • Commonwealth & Olympic Games • Surf Lifesaving • Netball • V8 Supercars • Grand Prix • Moto GP • Surfing World Tour

### **Professional Supporters**

- Neale Daniher (AFL Coaches Association CEO)
- Michael Martin (Head AIS Sports Psychology)
- Margaret Court (Champion Women's Tennis Player)
- David Hutton (Director SANFL)
- Danny Corcoran (Athletics Australia)
- Priscilla Ruddle (Former Olympian Athlete)
- Brian Goorjian (Coach Australian Boomers)
- Shaun Hart (Former Brisbane Lions AFL)
- Ray Walker (Former Bulldog, VFL State Selector & 3LO Sports Media Commentator)

### **What we do**

- Our chaplains provide pastoral care for players, coaches, administrators and club personnel and their families
- Our primary concern is the immediate and long term wellbeing of all those involved in sports above their performance
- Our chaplains provide their time and services at no cost to the sports community they represent, including injury support, home and hospital visitation, encouragement, trauma

leadership and support, grief and loss, club personnel care, spiritual support, marriage and relationship support, and other forms of pastoral care

- Our service is complementary to existing club personnel including medical, psychological/counselling, fitness and coaching staff
- Our focus is the whole person. Our care transcends class, gender, nationality or faith.

### **Professional Service Expectations – How We Can Help**

- Trained in pastoral care
- Athlete mentoring
- Home and hospital visitations
- Spiritual care and support
- Stress management
- Crisis management & recovery services
- Grief & loss, bereavement
- Poverty and distress
- Family care & support
- Suicide awareness and response
- Marriage & relationship development
- Life skills & leadership training
- Debriefing, selective counselling & referrals

Please note: Our chaplains are pastoral carers and intentionally not positioned as professional counsellors. Whilst many can provide specialised counselling our chaplains seek to work in conjunction with club psychologists and counsellors or seek to refer when necessary. However, their primary focus is pastoral care.

### **Professional Service Expectations – Training Support**

Our chaplaincy network can provide the following support to your club or event.

- Critical Incident & Stress Management
- First Response Capabilities
- Life Care and Preservation (Suicide Awareness & Response)
- Values-Based Leadership & Lifestyle Training
- Racial & Religious Vilification
- Marriage Preparation Training

### **Quality of Life - ASC**

SCA is also supportive of ASC quality of life initiatives in sport including:

- Advocate of anti-doping
- Advocate of harassment projects
- Advocate of Fair Go sports
- Advocate of Mental Health initiatives

### **Benefits of Chaplaincy**

Some of the benefits of chaplaincy include

- A way to deal with difficult community issues, discontent, drought, suicide
- Pro-active care of your members, players and staff
- Help during the difficult times of tragedy faced by individuals or the club as a whole, ie, loss of a family member, accident or death of a team mate, difficult divorce, etc
- Someone to assist defuse and respond to personal problems faced by personnel, ie, drugs, depression, anger, etc
- Someone neutral for players to talk to, offload, and be encouraged by
- A friend during the good and tough times in sport
- They show players, staff and families that 'the club' cares for people
- Our chaplains help progress a rich, positive and vibrant community

**Please, let us know if we can assist you further.**

Please contact,

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