



## WESLEY COLLEGE

By daring & by doing

### Chaplaincy at Wesley College

Wesley College was established as a College of the Methodist Church at its founding in 1923. At Church Union in June 1977, Wesley College became a College of the Uniting Church, under the oversight of the Synod of Western Australia.

As such, an ordained Minister of the Uniting Church is appointed by the Synod and Presbytery of Western Australia to undertake the duties of Chaplain in a manner not dissimilar to the appointment of a minister to a congregation. The Chaplain's role and responsibilities are set out in Uniting Church in Australia Regulation 2.2.1 "Duties of a Minister".

Wesley College has enjoyed long and stable chaplaincy appointments, a role currently undertaken by Rev Nalin Perera, who was appointed in January 2013. In addition to leading services for the College and at important ceremonial occasions within the broader life of the College community, the Chaplain also undertakes pastoral counselling and faith preparation.

The Uniting Church recognises the breadth of faith expression within the life of the College, with over 15 faith traditions represented among the student and staff body. The College also acknowledges those who, by choice or uncertainty, chose to embrace no faith tradition. The College is an inclusive community and within that framework, the Chaplain is responsible for the spiritual guidance of the College, undertaking such responsibility in collaboration with the broader pastoral care team.

As a Faith Community under the oversight of the Presbytery of Western Australia, the Chaplain is authorised to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, welcome people into the life of the Church through Confirmation and officiate at marriages and funerals. This pastoral responsibility embraces students and their families; staff and their families; the wider Wesley College community, including Old Wesleyans.

#### **Specific Pastoral Responsibilities of the Wesley College Chaplain are:**

##### **Ministry to the Headmaster and Staff:**

- involvement in the pastoral care of the Headmaster and all staff including volunteer workers;

- acting as an advocate and interpreter of matters arising within the pastoral context;
- acting in a support role for teachers and staff when policies are being framed that may affect their professional responsibilities;
- acting as an advocate between the Executive or administration, where necessary, when the needs of staff require addressing, including when unpopular decisions are made or necessary changes initiated;
- acting as a “listener” for staff in matters that will enable the maintenance of harmonious relationships;
- ongoing liaison with the College psychologists and the student Well-Being Team.

**Ministry to Students:**

- pastoral care of the entire student community, including minorities within the College;
- organising worship services for students;
- undertaking preparation for Confirmation;
- acting as a sounding-board, including explaining attitudes and policies;
- acting as an advocate for students;
- undertaking the role of mentoring;
- assisting with Religious & Values Education, where desired;
- pastoral care of minority groups within the College community

**Ministry to Families and the Wider College Community:**

- Administering the Sacrament of Baptism and Holy Communion;
- officiating at weddings and funerals of the wider Wesley Community;
- undertaking formal and informal pastoral contacts;
- pastoral care of former students and their families, when requested;
- liaising with the OWCA network, as requested, for special services and events.

The Chaplain is a Registered Minister of Religion and Authorised Marriage Celebrant under the Marriage Act, who can certify legal documents, where permissible, statutory declarations.

The Chaplain can be contacted for personal, pastoral or spiritual matters on (08) 9368 8064 or E-mail: [Nalin.Perera@wesley.wa.edu.au](mailto:Nalin.Perera@wesley.wa.edu.au)