I grew up on Mt Tamborine in a family of six and am the oldest of four siblings. My mother and two sisters are teachers so I have spent a lot of time hearing about schools! I have recently moved to Brisbane after being away studying a Diploma in Ministry and Theology at Youth Dimension in Melbourne for three years. Having been born and bred a Queenslander it is nice to be back! My background in nursing and ministry has equipped me well for the role as Chaplain at Samford State School and I am very excited to work with all of you. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

I can be contacted at the school at 3430 9111, ext. 114 and children, parents, caregivers and interested members of the community can email me at mswan51@eq.edu.au
What does a Chaplain do?

The Chaplain’s role at Samford is primarily to be there for students, parents and staff.

Chaplain Mel conducts programs to help develop social skills, conflict resolution and friendship. Her role here is to promote a sense of belonging and community for all staff, students and parents. This sometimes includes working in classrooms as additional support for teachers (such as taking reading or maths groups or mentoring.)

Pastoral Care: Chaplain Mel provides a caring presence, listening ear and relevant support to students going through tough times - divorce, family separation, loneliness, loss and grief. She does this by being a link between students and outside community help and/or our Guidance officer. Students can be referred to Mel by staff and/or parents if they feel the student needs some extra emotional support at any time.

Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Support: Chaplain Mel’s role includes providing information and support for students who may have questions around spirituality or ethics. She is able to link families with community churches and/or youth groups. While SU Qld chaplains are from a Christian faith background, they respect those who hold other beliefs and worldviews. Chaplain Mel respects everyone’s individual right to explore and pursue their own beliefs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What religious denomination does the Chaplain represent?
A The Chaplain has pastoral and caring skills and theological training. The Chaplain does not represent any one denomination and is supported by the various local churches.

Q To whom is the Chaplain responsible?
A Within the school, the Chaplain reports to the Principal and Deputy Principals. The Chaplain was appointed and is supervised by Scripture Union Queensland and the Local Chaplaincy Committee.

Q How is Scripture Union involved?
A Scripture Union is responsible for the employment conditions of the Chaplain in our school. Scripture Union is accredited with Education Queensland for the purpose of carrying out these duties in over 607 state schools.

Q Do parents have access to the Chaplain?
A Certainly! Parents, students and staff may request an appointment to speak with the Chaplain or raise an issue with Mel informally if they meet during the course of normal school activities.

Q What about catering to different beliefs?
A The Chaplain aims to offer caring support and a listening ear to all students, parents and staff. Part of this care is to be sensitive to and respectful of differing belief systems and other faiths.

Q How does the Chaplain add to the care provided by other school staff?
A Children will often seek out their teachers and other staff when they are experiencing problems. The Chaplain adds another level of care, and has a greater ability to respond in times of need. The Chaplain is also seen as ‘non establishment’ and this can help children to feel free to be honest about their feelings and difficulties.
How can you help?

- Working on the Chaplaincy Committee
- Assist in fund raising
- Helping Mel with chaplaincy activities at school
- Personal or family donations
- Business donations

All donations of $2 and over are tax deductible

I/We would like to give:
- Monthly: $………………
- Quarterly: $………………
- Half yearly: $…………………
- Yearly: $………………
- Once only: $………………

Payments Options:
- Credit Card
- Visa
- Mastercard
- Diners

Name on Card: ………………………………………
Expiry Date: ………/………..
Signature: ………………………………………

Cheques
Cheques payable to SU Qld Schools’ Ministry Fund Samford

Direct Debit
Account Name: ………………………………………………………

BSB……………… Account No. ………………………………………

A detailed Direct Debit Agreement will be sent to you prior to the first drawing. Drawings are made on the third Thursday of the month. I/We the undersigned request you Scripture Union Queensland [ID 057485] to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our nominated account at the financial institution nominated above according to the specific herein. If debiting from a joint account, both signatures are required.

Signature: ………………………………………

All donations of $2 or over are tax deductible

Personal Details:
Name: ………………………………………
Address: ………………………………………
Ph [daytime]: …………………………………

Post this to:
Su Qld, PO Box 1167, Eagle Farm, Qld, 4009