

## **TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PRISON CHAPLAINS**

The State Chaplaincy Board decided to introduce a new training program for prison chaplains commencing in 2005.

It is mandatory for ***new*** chaplains and optional for ***existing*** chaplains.

It is ***free*** of charge to trainees.

Subjects are offered progressively at the Annual In-Service so that all chaplains can access the materials.

All theory subjects are offered in Distance Learning mode via the Board's website [www.statechaplaincyboard.com](http://www.statechaplaincyboard.com). The relevant section of the website is "Professional Development".

The ***Theory*** part of the course has 8 subjects:

- The praxis implications of the policies and procedural requirements in the Prison Chaplain's Handbook (See the website for the *Handbook* and the *Do and Don't list*)
- Loss & Grief (See the paper by Dr. Judith Murray) and Human Suffering (See the paper by Fr. John Flader)
- Theories of Spirituality and Health (See the paper by the Canadian academics).
- Mental Health: understanding how mental health problems are diagnosed and treated and the implications for pastoral carers working with prisoners with mental health problems (See the presentation by Dr. Pam Waters)
- Ethics (see the paper on Ethical considerations)
- Pastoral care in multi-faith settings (See the relevant papers)
- Indigenous culture and spirituality (See the relevant papers)
- Scripture as a resource in pastoral care (See the Handbook on biblical hermeneutics with an introduction to the Old Testament and see the reading aid for Book of Job)

The ***Praxis*** part of the course is handled via 1-2-1 supervision using the Verbatim method of reflecting upon and improving the way trainees work as pastoral carers. The State Chaplaincy Board arranges the training of experienced chaplains to become ***supervisors*** of trainee chaplains (i.e., trained to administer the Verbatim learning process)

Trainees are also expected to have a "buddy" chaplain for the duration of their training. The role of the "buddy" chaplain is to journey with the trainee through the ups and downs of the process of learning to become a pastoral carer.

