



EMPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

Guidance Counsellor (May Or May Not Be Schedule 6, Cl 47 Position)

The position of guidance counsellor is a sensitive one, particularly with regard to aspects of the school's Catholic character because the counsellor will, among other responsibilities, deal with students who have special needs and personal problems. Some of these personal problems and special needs will have a religious and/or moral dimension.

If the position is not tagged as Schedule 6, Cl 47 position, the Board must ensure not only that the person appointed is a competent counsellor but also that he or she is suitable for a Catholic school. The guidance counsellor must give advice and guidance in accordance with the principles of Catholic morality and follow the guidelines published by the Bishops of New Zealand.

The guidance counsellor is required to have a clear understanding and appreciation of:

- the Catholic Character of the school
- the moral teaching of the Catholic Church
- the support that the Church can give to those coping with such problems as guilt, pregnancy, bereavement, etc.
- the support available from various Church agencies
- the possible sensitivity of parents with strict religious ideals.

A Proprietor's appointee should be on the appointment committee for this position.

The guidance counsellor cannot leave any student client with the impression that actions contrary to the Church's moral teaching are approved by the school. The counsellor must work to the Board's guidelines for the health services that a counsellor may deliver. If the Board does not have such guidelines, it can contact the Diocesan Catholic Education Office for assistance in establishing them.