

Converge Report

Converge International is owned by Different Co (formerly Reventure and Interchurch Trade and Industry Mission (ITIM)) in partnership with the Victorian Business Growth Fund. ITIM began providing pastoral counselling (chaplaincy) and related employee services to workplaces in 1960. Our service provision has expanded to also include psychologists, social workers and counsellors. Customers include Commonwealth, State and Local Government, as well as entities within the private sector. Converge International is a member of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association of Australia (EAPAA).

1. Onsite Wellbeing Services Support

Converge Onsite Wellbeing Services (OWS) provides a range of services including counselling, wellbeing resources and groups sessions.

OWS services are available to employees at their employer's cost. This investment speaks powerfully to staff about their organisations desire to care for their wellbeing. Pastoral Counsellors are embedded into a workplace where an ongoing presence, availability and friendly/approachable nature help to develop rapport with employees. It's about building trusting relationships where people feel safe to explore both workplace and personal issues in a confidential and non-judgmental space.

Pastoral Counsellors provide this care and ongoing support through 'Walk and Talk', counselling appointments and group presentations. 'Walk and Talk' is around building rapport and visibility of the program through casual conversations that help build trust. There are times where these flow into deeper conversations as they feel listened to, heard and valued.

Further important avenues of our Onsite services include referral to GP's, specialist counselling through the client's employee assistance program (EAP) or other mental health professionals. Where referrals are made, our Pastoral Counsellors can continue catching up with the employee for ongoing welfare checks.

2. Pastoral Counsellors in SA

Pastoral Counselling (previously known as 'chaplaincy') remains an important part of our nation-wide Onsite Service. In South Australia we currently have two Pastoral Counsellors.

3. Other Services

In addition to on-site pastoral services, Converge provides Employee Assistance Programs (counselling off-site by appointment paid for by the employer). These counsellors deliver a brief therapy model, with a set number of sessions, usually three to five.

Converge also has teams that provide training and consulting, 'Rapid Response' (responding on-site to critical incidents), and access to various specialised help lines, including the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Help Line.

5. Contacting Converge International

For further information about the On-Site Pastoral Counselling (Chaplaincy) service, the Employee Assistance Program or any other services that Converge provide, please contact Converge International on 1300 687 327 (24/7), or visit our website: www.convergeinternational.com.au

6. Thank you

Converge would like to acknowledge and thank The Uniting Church in Australia - Synod of South Australia for its contributions given towards the Pastoral Counsellor's program. There have been provisions given over many years and it has been really appreciated.

Derek Croser

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Onsite and Rapid Response Team Leader

Pastoral Counsellor

Converge International

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