



**2017 Mission Based Compact
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and the University of Divinity**

PURPOSE

This compact is an agreement between the Commonwealth and the University. Entering into a compact is one of the quality and accountability requirements which a higher education provider must meet under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) as a condition of receiving a grant. Specifically, subsection 19-110(1) of HESA requires Table A and Table B providers must, in respect of each year for which a grant is paid to the provider under HESA, enter into a mission based compact with the Commonwealth for a period which includes that year.

MISSION

From 2012 to 2016 the University of Divinity completed a period of transition to University status. In 2017 the University's primary focus is to continue to deliver 14 Goals in the Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Growing in Partnership, with a focus on building institutional capacity and building relationships with existing and new partners.

The University aims to serve its students, staff, and over thirty institutional partners in the churches and religious orders in Australia and internationally through the creation and communication of high quality theological scholarship. This includes resourcing future leaders of the churches and religious orders, developing theological expertise in the teaching and caring professions, and bringing theological knowledge to bear on the issues of the contemporary world.

INNOVATION

The University's unique constitution as a collegiate University that brings together over 30 churches, religious orders, and agencies into 11 colleges represents an innovative approach to Australian higher education by bringing together institutional leaders, end-users, students, and staff under a single umbrella. The key thread in the University's Strategic Plan is to build further partnerships to increase the application of theological scholarship to contemporary problems, and to ensure that scholarship is responding to emerging needs in the wider community. Pilot projects in 2017 include new partnerships to improve the quality of aged care, to promote interfaith dialogue, and to address social inequities.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The University's major strategy in 2017 to strengthen and assure the quality of its learning and teaching is the first intake into the Graduate Certificate in Theological Education. This initiative, Goal 9 in the University's Strategic Plan 2016-2025, is the first qualification in Australia to provide professional development for theological educators at tertiary level, and is designed to broaden the University's academic staff and those of other institutions in their awareness of quality issues in tertiary education and to deepen their capacity in one area of theological education.

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

The University has three initiatives underway to ensure excellence in research and research training, supported by the Commonwealth through the Research Training Program and Research Support Program:

1. In 2017 the University will award a scholarship and stipend to a PhD student in partnership with the Laurdel Foundation to deliver a research project on aged care and spirituality. This has been designed to create a viable model for future PhD industry partnerships.
2. Strategic Plan Goal 10: Research includes a structured three year plan to raise the threshold for minimum research activity, setting targets for improved quality and quantity across all Colleges, and providing increased support through increasing internal research grant funding and providing a new position of a publication support officer.
3. In 2017 the University's new Centre for Research in Religion and Social Policy will commence its first full year of operation under Strategic Goal 5 with a Director, Committee, and members in place with a brief to build external

partnerships with faith-based agencies to promote critical theological and social research.

EQUITY

The University has four initiatives underway guided by its Strategic Plan to improve equity of opportunity:

1. The Council has adopted an Inclusion Policy to be implemented in 2017 that establishes principled commitments to inclusion of all persons of appropriate academic merit and assigns responsibilities for making reasonable adjustments and building a proactive culture, especially in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
2. Strategic Plan Goal 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theology has funded a project officer and working group to identify existing relationships with Indigenous communities and to implement actions to build on these. Recommendations for 2017 include cultural competency training for all staff.
3. In 2017 two Colleges will deliver specially designed diploma-level qualifications directed at school leavers who may not otherwise consider tertiary study to increase social capital.
4. An English language foundations program for theological students in partnership with a religious order will enter its second year in 2017 to provide a pathway for students to improve English language capacity for theological study.

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by

Dom English
Full name (please print)

Group manager
Position

of the Department of Education and Training as
delegate of the Minister for Education and
Training.

Dr English
Signature

19/12/2017
Date

Cate Hutchinson
Witness (please print)

Policy Officer
Position or profession of witness (please print)

C G Hutchinson
Signature

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

UNIVERSITY

PETER DAVID SHERLOCK
Full name (please print)

VICE - CHANCELLOR
Position

P. D. Sherlock
Signature

DELILA MARIA MATULEWICZ
Witness (please print)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
Position or profession of witness (please print)

D. M. Matulewicz
Signature