



Melbourne  
College of Divinity

# Strategic Plan 2011-2013



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# Melbourne College of Divinity Plan for a New Century

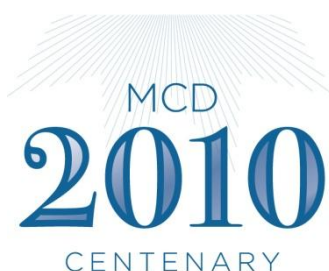
## Preamble

As the Melbourne College of Divinity enters its second century of existence, it is faced with challenges and opportunities to shape a new identity within a very different religious and social climate to the one in which its founders fashioned the original MCD. Inspired and guided by their example, the ecumenical community which currently constitutes the MCD has an opportunity to develop and diversify the College with the same vision, commitment and faith which the founders exemplified, while maintaining its position at the apex of theological and ministerial education, on both national and international levels.

The original MCD, founded with the support of all major Christian denominations as an academic ecumenical institution, was far ahead of its time educationally, religiously and in respect to the trends and practices of society in 1910. The challenge which the College faces a century later can be summarised as follows:

“How can the Melbourne College of Divinity move confidently into its second century with the same radically innovative yet carefully reasoned vision and planning as its founders demonstrated in 1910?”

Responding to this challenge may entail a ‘re-visioning’ and restructuring of the MCD, a task which is already in process, as successive MCD Summits, held on November 18, 2006 and December 6, 2008, and the discussions resulting from these Summits, indicate. This Strategic Planning document, as did its predecessors, carries this process further, and attempts to give it specific definition and direction.



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## Section 1: Guiding Framework

### **Vision:**

Recognised nationally and internationally, the Melbourne College of Divinity commits itself to pursuing the highest standards in teaching and research in Christian theology and ministry. The College offers scholars and students alike the opportunity to anchor their faith in understanding and in a spirit of dialogue to engage with other religious traditions and wider social contexts.

### **Mission:**

The *Melbourne College of Divinity* is an ecumenical provider of quality tertiary education in the field of Divinity and associated disciplines.<sup>1</sup>

### **Guiding Values 1**

- Critical enquiry and open dialogue in the exploration of truth
- Active engagement with local, national and global social contexts
- Recognition and respect for the traditions of the member churches in an atmosphere of mutuality and ecumenical cooperation

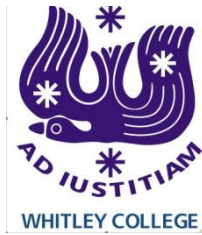
### **Guiding Values 2**

- Interdependence in the development of all learning activities
- Honest professional relationships between students and staff
- Freedom from all forms of discrimination
- A climate of respect and openness
- Enthusiasm, flexibility and innovation.



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<sup>1</sup> Associated disciplines' are defined in the MCD Act as "studies in religion and ministry practice directly related to Divinity in its contemporary, historical, social and cultural contexts".



## Section 2: The Environment (1)

(A description of the current status of the College, further elaborated on in Appendix I)

The Melbourne College of Divinity (MCD) is a specialised tertiary institution established by the Christian Churches to provide education in the field of Divinity and associated disciplines. It was founded in 1910 by an Act of the Victorian Parliament, as an ecumenical response to the policy of the government that precluded the granting of degrees in Divinity by the State's single university.

In the first phase of its existence (refer to Appendix I), the College dealt primarily with 'candidates for the ministry' of the churches, but now the student body is far more diverse. This gives the College an important, if relatively small, position in the tertiary education system of Victoria.

The College is a self-regulating, self-accrediting tertiary education institution under the Melbourne College of Divinity Act (1910). The College's governing body, the Council, is appointed mainly by the participant Churches [Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Catholic and Uniting Church] while the oversight of academic matters falls under the provenance of an Academic Board established by Council regulation. The current Act (revised in 2005) reflects Commonwealth Government national protocols for the governance of higher education institutions.

While retaining its self-regulating, self-accrediting status, the College was affiliated with the University of Melbourne in 1993, and is associated with Monash University through the offering of a double degree (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Theology).

The College is a federation of Recognised Teaching Institutions [RTIs], principally comprised of theological colleges, where the teaching activities of the College are undertaken. The central administration of the MCD co-ordinates the academic and administrative activities of the RTIs to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of the Act and of State and Commonwealth government protocols.



Each RTI does, in general, have other responsibilities to its denomination, which are not related to the MCD and are outside its purview. The Churches provide significant structural, financial and personnel resources to their theological colleges.

The College became more closely involved with the Commonwealth in 2002 when it became eligible to compete for research funding, and received access to post graduate scholarships. This has markedly improved the financial situation of the College. To continue this income stream has required the adherence to the Commonwealth protocols mentioned above, resulting in the recent changes to the Act and the review of the College every 5 years by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). Meeting the recommendations of the AUQA review in 2005 and preparing for AUQA Audit Cycle II under the auspices of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency in 2012 is a major undertaking. The students of the College, if eligible, are able to access the Commonwealth program 'FEE-HELP' and this has made the courses offered by the College more accessible, although at an administrative cost to the College.

As with any corporation, the College is required to accord with the laws of society, and there are rapid changes currently occurring in the area of compliance. These changes, together with changes relating to the aforementioned National Protocols, and also to changes in the expectations of students, faculty and staff, due in part to the advances in technology, mean that the MCD planning framework must remain flexible and open to constant review and alteration.



### **Section 3: Proposed Planning Areas and Goals:**

#### **The articulation of Goals, supporting the MCD Vision, which provide the framework for the Strategic Plan**

The Goals, clustered under four broad headings, derive from the Objectives of the College as they appear in the Melbourne College of Divinity Act 1910, Section 4 (Appendix I).



#### **3: A: Governance**

[Objectives a), b), f)]

**Goal 1:** To continue to be an exemplar of ecumenical cooperation and theological education;

**Goal 2:** To develop an MCD identity as an institution that models inter-religious dialogue and active engagement of diverse religious traditions in the operations of the College.

**Goal 3:** To ensure that the MCD accords with all State and Federal Government regulations and requirements which apply to it, as well as contributing to the Australian Government's goals for Higher Education and Research.

**Goal 4:** To ensure continued and appropriate governmental support within the context of the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes;

**Goal 5:** To abide by all provisions in the Melbourne College of Divinity Act/National Governance Protocols (to be spelt out by the Dean).

**Goal 6:** To foster consideration by the governing body of each of the RTIs of the goals of this Strategic Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **3: B: The Academy**

[Objectives a), b), c) d), f)]

**Goal 1:** To offer opportunities for theological education, teaching and research within an ecumenical and inter-religious context;

**Goal 2:** To develop innovative teaching and learning programs which respond to the needs of the Churches and of society, and to engage in the

theological enterprise with due respect and attention to this land and its indigenous peoples;

**Goal 3:** To produce research and to develop teaching of the highest national and international standards by both faculty and students;

**Goal 4:** To explore a succession planning protocol with the RTIs of their future staffing requirements, including succession planning in relation to Goals 5 and 6;

**Goal 5:** To explore the possibilities of sharing academic staff across the RTIs in areas of specialisation;

**Goal 6:** To develop an academic staff structure nomenclature for the MCD.

\* \* \* \*



### **3: C: Development**

[Objectives b), e), f)]

**Goal 1:** To develop strong links and scholarly exchange programs with theological institutions internationally;

**Goal 2:** To raise the profile of the Melbourne College of Divinity and to increase support from Federal and State governments, the Higher Education sector, and from commerce;

**Goal 3:** To undertake the expansion of the MCD through increasing the number of Recognised Teaching Institutions which accord with the MCD's philosophy, ecumenicity and academic standards.

\* \* \* \*

### **3: D: Administration**

[Objectives b), g)]

**Goal 1:** To provide high level administrative support for the faculty, staff and students of the MCD;

**Goal 2:** To continue to explore possibilities to locate the MCD administration permanently on its own site.

## **Section 4: Addressing the Goals: Operational Plan 2011**

### **Planning Area A: Governance**

#### *General*

1. Revise the goals of the MCD Strategic Plan to incorporate Federal government priorities for Higher Education;
2. Implement the approved recommendations of the MCD Organisational Risk Profile document;
3. Undertake a Review of Council and its Procedures.

\* \* \*

### **Planning Area B: The Academy**

#### *Government*

1. Continue to prepare for Cycle II AUQA/TEQSA Quality Audit to take place in 2012, including completing the ESOS Compliance Manual;

#### *Coursework*

2. Construct an Action Plan for the implementation of the MCD Learning and Teaching Management Plan;
3. Develop tools for evaluation of teaching and learning, student engagement, stakeholder satisfaction and how units relate to graduate attributes to be embedded in unit outline in preparation for the Cycle II Audit;
4. Continue the review of the MCD awards as proposed in the Course Review Policy 2011-2013, and include all HDR courses in the review cycle;
5. Analyse and publish student experience information on MCD teaching and research, and use this information in course and unit review;
6. Examine the provisions for new academic staff of the MCD to ensure appropriate training for teaching in Higher Education;

#### *Research*

7. Achieve a net increase in Higher Degree by Research enrolments;
8. Develop a suite of MCD postgraduate coursework units focusing on training in research methodologies, for implementation from 2012;
9. Develop postgraduate units in World Religions/comparative Religious Studies, and/or ongoing research project arising from the Parliament of World Religions;
10. Continue the dialogue with Islamic and Jewish research institutes at the University of Melbourne and Monash University and other



universities with the intention of staff exchange, and exploring the establishment of joint units.

\* \* \*

## **Planning Area C: Development**

### *Research*

1. Develop plans for the Research Institute of the MCD;

### *Government*

2. In consultation with MCD university partners, promote and assist in the submission of external funding grant applications, including those listed in the Australian Competitive Grants Register, with training and support for staff;
3. Encourage Heads of Colleges to nominate students for all Government awards such as the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence;

### *General*

4. Continue to develop a philanthropic plan for the MCD for institutional development, including the development of an MCD Foundation;
5. Promote the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) program to MCD institutions to encourage the exchange of faculty and students at affiliated institutions.

\* \* \*



## **Planning Area D: Administration**

### *Government*

1. Prepare an Expression of Interest to the Education Investment Fund which will include funding for the purchase of a suitable building for the MCD administration, and for the establishment of the MCD Research Institute;

### *General*

2. Implement an MCD-wide academic staff classifications and nomenclature framework;
3. Continue consultative process with appropriate bodies in relation to succession planning for teaching faculty across the MCD;

4. Continue to review enrolment processes across MCD and the RTIs;
5. Continue the IT review, including the review of the student records system (TAMS), i.e. Paradigm EMS;
6. Continue to explore options re online reenrolment;
7. Establish an online 'Handbook' describing all courses and units across the MCD.

In addition, the following goals form part of the 2011 Operational Plan but as they are cyclic in nature they have not been included above.

### **Planning Area A: Governance**

#### *Government*

1. Prepare 2010 Annual Report and submit on time to the State Government.

### **Planning Area B: The Academy**

#### *Government*

1. Continue to develop Quality Assurance processes in preparation for the advent of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), in order to maintain the status of the MCD as the standard by which theological education is measured in Australasia;

#### *General*

3. Continue to promote internationally the MCD as the leading institute in theology and religion in Australia.

### **Planning Area C: Development**

#### *Government*

1. Ensure all relevant compliance with Federal and State Government rules and regulations.

## **Planning Area D: Administration**

### *Government*

1. Complete annual review of the MCD Academic Conduct Policy in accord with DEEWR guidelines and ensure it aligns with relevant Regulations;

### *General*

2. Continue to develop a staff development plan for the MCD Central Administration.

## Appendix I

### Objects of the College (as defined in the Melbourne College of Divinity Act 1910)

- a) the pursuit of the highest standards in teaching and research in Divinity and associated disciplines;
- b) the offering to scholars and students of Divinity of the opportunity to anchor faith in understanding, and in a spirit of dialogue to engage with society;
- c) to respect, encourage, challenge and inform students who come to the College to learn;
- d) to respond to the academic needs of the churches, and to promote their integrity;
- e) to address issues from a sound and reasoned theological viewpoint, and to offer society opportunities for dialogue with traditions and values that have been refined over the centuries;
- f) to aid, by research and other appropriate means, the advancement and development of knowledge and its practical application to the churches, to wider academic and community life, and public policy;
- g) to confer degrees, diplomas and certificates and other awards in Divinity and associated disciplines.



## APPENDIX II

### The Environment (2)

#### A) Legal Status of the Melbourne College of Divinity

The Melbourne College of Divinity was constituted by an Act passed by the Parliament of the State of Victoria on December 17, 1910. The Act accords for the Constitution and Incorporation of a College of Divinity under the name of the Melbourne College of Divinity. Under the auspices of the Act the first members of the College were appointed. The College then represented the Church of England, the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and by co-optation the Churches of Christ. The Act was amended in 1956, 1972, 1979 and 1990 to enable the MCD to become a more comprehensive body, and was thoroughly revised in 2005.



#### B) Governance and Ownership

The MCD Act established the College *as a body corporate under the name of the Melbourne College of Divinity with perpetual succession and a common seal, and by that name shall be capable in law of suing and being sued, and for the purposes of the said College shall be capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of real and personal property and of doing and suffering all such other acts and things as bodies corporate may by law do and suffer [Section 5(1)].*

According to Section 3 (2) of the MCD Act, The College consists of:

- (a) the Council;
- (b) persons who are appointed by the Council in accordance with the regulations as Fellows of the College;
- (c) members of the boards and committees of the College;
- (d) members of the academic staff and general staff of the College that are specified by the Council or of a class of staff specified by the Council;
- (e) persons enrolled as students of the College in courses or parts of courses leading to a degree, diploma, certificate or other award of the College;
- (f) persons designated by the College as scholars of the College.

### **C) Origins and Development of the MCD– *an historical overview***

The history of the MCD falls into several reasonably distinct phases, each with a characteristic task being added to earlier ones as the MCD Act was revised.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Phase 1 1910 - 1972** (*examining: Act passed in 1910, revised 1956*)

The MCD emerged in response to a need for an institution to provide academic training for Protestant clergy in Australia. Its founding was facilitated by the support of leaders from all the churches in Victoria, including the Roman Catholic archbishop, and also resulted from a clause in the University of Melbourne's constitution which excluded the awarding of degrees in Divinity.



In this phase, the MCD existed as an examining body. The Bachelor of Divinity (BD) and Diploma of Divinity (LTh) were examined each November in centres across Australia, New Zealand and beyond. The Doctor of Divinity was awarded for research leading to a thesis. A major conference in 1965 opened the way for major changes not only for the MCD, but in theological education generally in Australasia. The

College's postgraduate program developed with the addition of a Master of Theology in 1956 and a Doctor of Theology in 1972.

#### **Phase 2 1973 - 1990** (*accrediting teaching: Act revisions in 1972 and 1979*)

Following revision of the MCD Act in 1972, the Roman Catholic Church was able to appoint representatives to the College – a most significant ecumenical development. In this phase, alongside its examining role, the MCD came to function as a federation of accredited colleges teaching a primary degree in theology. Newly instituted Boards of Studies processed the cross-moderation of units, faculty and assessment.

The development of similar Colleges of Divinity in other States and in New Zealand between 1979 and 1985 saw the focus of the MCD become more Melbourne-oriented. This focus was widened with the introduction of the Advanced Ministry Studies Program in 1990.

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<sup>2</sup> Supplementary Materials 1.4: *The MCD: an historical overview*.

### **Phase 3 1990 - 2000** (*teaching and diversifying: Act revision in 1990*)

In this phase the teaching work of the Authorised Teaching Institutions (ATIs) continued to be the main focus of the MCD's educational work. Joint Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Theology degrees with the University of Melbourne and Monash University began in 1991 and the College became affiliated with the University of Melbourne in 1993. In 1992 *Pacifica: Australasian Theological Studies* (established in 1987), was adopted by the Melbourne College of Divinity as its official (refereed) journal, and the College continues to be the journal's primary sponsor. (*Pacifica* was listed with an 'A' ranking in the 2010 Excellence in Research Australia Journal Ranking Exercise.)

A Master of Ministry degree proceeded from the 1990 revision of the Act. This degree was administered by a Director of Ministry Studies located at the MCD administration. The Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Ministry were accredited in 1994 to provide for the formational needs of the churches.

The Act also empowered the College to offer other postgraduate awards: Ministry Studies added a Graduate Diploma and Doctorate, and a coursework Master of Theological Studies was approved in 1997. Further diversification was represented in the affiliation of Centres engaging with special areas of focus – Spirituality, Ecumenism, Education and Gender Studies. In 1999 the Graduate Diploma in Theology and Master of Arts awards were introduced. The Doctor of Philosophy was introduced in 1999.

### **Phase 4 2001 – 2005** (*researching and restructuring: Act revision in 2005*)

Organisational restructuring characterises this phase, evident in the major restructure of the MCD Act (1910). Also, the MCD underwent a quality audit by the Australian University Quality Agency in September 2005, a positive and affirming experience which assisted the College to further develop key areas within its learning, teaching and research cultures. Additionally, while research had been part of the College's life since the beginning, the receipt of Commonwealth research funding in 2002 enabled the MCD to develop into one of the foremost providers of research in Divinity and related disciplines in the nation.



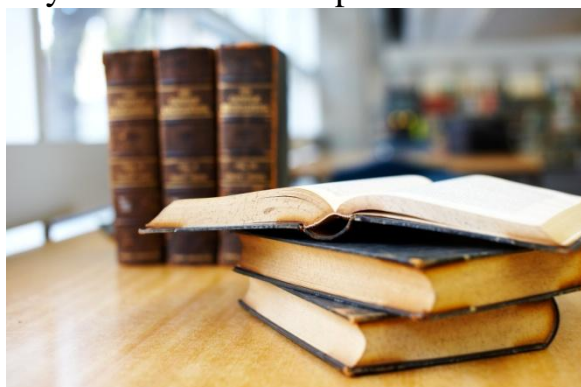
## **Phase 5 2006-2010**

Following the passage of the MCD (Amendment) Bill 2005, in September 2005, and the radical restructuring of the College and its governance and academic structures to accord with new Federal National Governance Protocols, together with the corresponding successful completion of an audit by the Australian Universities Quality Agency, the MCD entered a phase of re-visioning and re-defining its identity.

This re-visioning and re-defining of identity corresponded with the opportunity for the MCD to become a Specialist University under new National Protocols and Guidelines for the establishment of Higher Education Institutions in Australia. Consequent on this possibility, the MCD Council called successive Summits on November 18, 2006 and December 6, 2008 to discuss this issue and to plan for the future. Subsequent consultation with MCD constituencies, and corresponding, extensive discussions by the various committees and associated bodies of the MCD, culminated in an application for a change of status to that of a specialised university being lodged with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority on August 30, 2010. The result of this application is expected to be known by mid-2011.

## **1910 – 2010 in summary**

In Phase 1, the MCD as an institution *was* the central administration, with a national and international role as theological educator. In Phase 2, the ATIs came to the fore, each with its own identity, participating in the MCD through teaching the Bachelor of Theology alongside their own formation programs. In Phase 3, in addition to its examining and ATI-related administration, the MCD administration oversaw the Advanced Ministry Studies Program, and administered the new postgraduate awards. In Phase 4, the reception of DEST funding for research required the MCD to become a more unified, cohesive institution. In Phase 5, the opportunity has arisen for the MCD to revision and restructure itself in a way that has not been possible in its 100 years of existence.



In retrospect, the time frames of the phases of development undergone by the MCD have shortened considerably with successive stages: Phase 1 lasted for 62 years (1910-1972), Phase 2 for 17 years (1973-1990), Phase 3 for 11 years (1990-2000), Phase 4 for five years

(2001-2005), and Phase 5 (2006-2010) for five years. However, the changes envisioned at this stage of Phase 5 are radical enough in relation to the nature and identity of the MCD to endure for a considerable length of time.

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#### **D) Structure of the College**

The MCD has a complex structure. Like a university, it has a governing Council, a central administration, and an Academic Board whose responsibility is the maintenance of educational standards across the institution. The Council currently includes representatives of the Anglican, Baptist, Churches of Christ, Roman Catholic and Uniting churches, with Australian Lutheran College and The Salvation Army Training College involved in its teaching programs. A theologically diverse institution, the MCD is committed to ecumenical co-operation in theological education in a way which enables each denominational participant to be true to its heritage and commitments, yet open to the enrichment of engagement with others committed to the same journey. The opportunities created by such co-operation are available at few other places in the world. Students, faculty, alumni and friends of the MCD are proud participants in a collaborative effort that has helped to achieve collectively what member institutions could not have accomplished individually. The MCD has conferred over 10,000 awards since it began offering degrees and diplomas in Divinity and associated disciplines in 1910.

The member colleges of the MCD, and other teaching bodies within the MCD, like the faculties of a university, engage in teaching and learning activities with students. However, unlike most other multi-sited universities, the Recognised Teaching Institutions (RTIs) of the Melbourne College of Divinity operate semi-autonomously. The primary relationship between the MCD and the RTIs is an academic one, as stated in the Act under Section 23 (1): *The Council, on the advice of the Academic Board and in accordance with the regulations, may recognise an institution or a group of institutions as being authorised by the College to teach and examine students in academic programs and courses of study that will lead to the award by the Council of a degree, diploma, certificate or other award relating to a program or course of study.*

Faculty of the RTIs take an active role not only in cultivating and enhancing the Teaching, Learning and Research within the MCD, but also play an invaluable role in the self-accrediting responsibilities of the MCD through their active participation on MCD Boards and Committees.

The following RTIs currently operate within the MCD:



Catholic Theological College

Churches of Christ Theological College



The Institute for Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Formation



The Salvation Army Training College



United Faculty of Theology (consisting of the Jesuit Theological College, Trinity College Theological School and the Uniting Church Theological College)

Whitley College



Yarra Theological Union

Australian Lutheran College



The Council, in consultation with faculty and staff throughout the College, as the governing body of the Melbourne College of Divinity, is responsible for defining the Vision, Mission, Values, Objectives and Strategic Direction of the institution. However, each Objective represents a responsibility shared across all facets of the MCD.



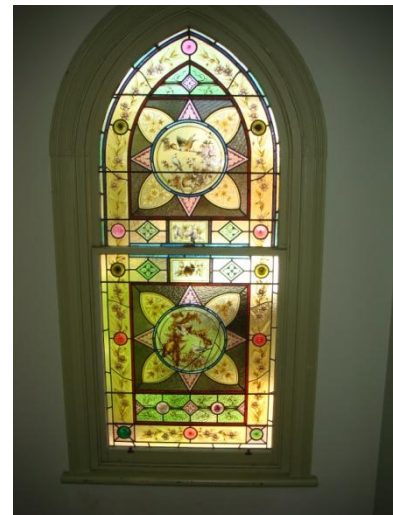
### **E) Financial and Physical State of the College<sup>3</sup>**

The MCD is designated as a not-for-profit Higher Education Institution by the Australian Taxation Office, which has also accorded tax-deductible gift-recipient status to the College.

The MCD Annual Report is submitted to State Parliament each year, and is prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS and AASB standards) and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (including Urgent Issues, Group Consensus, Views and Statements of Accounting Concepts), Financial Reporting Directions and Business Rules. The compilation of these Reports follows an independent audit of the College's finances, overseen by the MCD Finance and Investment Committee, and the Risk Management and Audit Committee. The Reports indicate that the College is in a sound position financially, and should continue as such for the foreseeable future.

The MCD does not own a physical site for its administration. The administration currently rents a former manse of the Uniting Church located at 21 Highbury Grove, Kew for its staff of 14.

The Recognised Teaching Institutions of the MCD are generally located within their own facilities on their own properties, although several occupy properties and facilities belonging to other church institutions. Each RTI operates independently from the MCD as financial and legal entities. However, each College within the MCD must submit an Annual Financial Viability Statement to the Director Finance and Administration (Registrar) of the MCD to indicate its fiscal ability to continue operating and teaching MCD academic programs. The RTIs supply and pay their faculty,



<sup>3</sup> This section should be read in conjunction with MCD Annual Reports 2008 and 2009.

maintain their own administration and facilities, but do not grant degrees, which is the responsibility of the MCD Council under the self-accrediting structure of the College.

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**F) Profile of the Melbourne College of Divinity as a Higher Education Institution:**

- As a Higher Education Provider established by Act of the Parliament of Victoria, the MCD is accountable to the Minister for Education.
- The MCD tables its Annual Report with the State Government in May each year, together with the eight public universities in Victoria;
- The MCD is one of three non-university, self-accrediting Higher Education Institutions listed in Table A and B of Higher Education Support Act 2003. It is listed as a Table B Institution together with Bond and Notre Dame Universities;
- In 1993 the MCD was affiliated with the University of Melbourne, while retaining its autonomy and degree conferring status.
- The MCD has been a self-accrediting institution for 100 years, under *The Melbourne College of Divinity Act 1910*, making it the second oldest such institution in Victoria, and the sixth oldest in the nation;
- The MCD delivers Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualifications, including a variety of research degrees.
- The MCD has been authorised to grant the Doctor of Divinity degree since its inception, making the College one of the oldest doctoral degree awarding institutions in the nation;
- The MCD's Act was thoroughly revised in 2005, through the Melbourne College of Divinity (Amendment) Bill 2005, to accord with the National Governance Protocols;
- The MCD accords with National Protocol A; it is currently awaiting the outcome of its application to become a Specialised University under Protocol D.
- The MCD has been in receipt of research funding from the Federal Government since 2002. In the nine years that the MCD has been in receipt of funding for research, the amount received from the

Federal government has increased by 500%, based on the College's substantially increased performance in this area.

### **Courses offered**

<b>Coursework Courses</b>	<b>Coursework Courses (continued)</b>
Advanced Diploma in Ministry - General	Graduate Diploma in Counselling
Advanced Diploma in Ministry - Specialised, 3 Specialisations	Master of Divinity
Associate Diploma in Ministry	Master of Divinity with Honours
Diploma in Ministry - General	Master of Education
Diploma in Ministry - Specialised, 3 Specialisations	Master of Theological Studies
Diploma in Theology	Master of Arts (Theology) - General
Bachelor of Ministry	Master of Arts (Theology) - Specialised, 14 Specialisations
Bachelor of Theology	<b>Research Courses</b>
Bachelor of Theology / Bachelor of Arts (Monash)	Master of Arts
Bachelor of Theology (Honours)	Master of Education (Research)
Graduate Certificate in Theology - General	Master of Ministry
Graduate Certificate in Theology - Specialised, 8 Specialisations	Master of Theology
Graduate Diploma in Faith Community Nursing	Doctor of Divinity
Graduate Diploma in Ministry	Doctor of Ministry Studies
Graduate Diploma in Theology - General	Doctor of Philosophy
Graduate Diploma in Theology - Specialised, 14 Specialisations	Doctor of Theology

- The MCD underwent an Audit by the Australian Universities Quality Agency in September 2005, with a result that it has received praise from faculty at a variety of universities, and set the standard for other theological Consortia/Colleges to follow;
- The MCD reports regularly to the Federal government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), to which latter Department the MCD submits its Higher Education Research Data Collection Report by 30th June each year;

- The MCD operates its own Tuition Assurance Scheme for overseas students, and the College and its constituent colleges conform to Tuition and Course Assurance requirements of the Commonwealth government.

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### **G) Profile of the Melbourne College of Divinity as an educational arm of the churches:**

The MCD offers academic services to the Christian churches, especially those represented on the Council, to its faculty and students, and to the wider community. Approximately 17 per cent of MCD students are candidates for ordained ministry in their respective churches. A number of the remainder are likely to serve in this or similar capacity. Whether candidates or not, MCD students generally pursue learning for its own sake, and the learning style which characterises studies in Divinity is that of the humanities. The MCD thus serves its people, and the wider community, primarily through its contribution to “dialogue with traditions and values that have been refined over the centuries” [MCD Objective e)]

- In defining its relationship to the Churches, the MCD commits itself to: *The integrity of the Christian churches* (Vision Statement); *Recognition and respect for the traditions of the member churches in an atmosphere of mutuality and ecumenical cooperation* (Values); and *To responding to the academic needs of the churches, and to promoting their integrity* (Objectives). The MCD fulfils this commitment by offering theological and ministerial awards and training through the following structures:
- Eight Recognised Teaching Institutions, comprising ten bodies (nine Colleges and one Institute) teaching at a range of levels and specialisations. It is quite possible that this number will expand in future.

**MCD Faculty:** The majority of MCD faculty are clergy who are dedicated to the philosophy of their chosen field of teaching, some having a long association with a particular RTI. MCD faculty members are well qualified academically and, in addition to their teaching and research responsibilities, are often involved in significant ways in the life of the churches and religious orders associated with the MCD. Teaching staff of the RTIs with doctoral qualifications account for 42 per cent of the total number. Of the 194 academics who hold full-time or fractional appointments within the RTIs currently, 81 hold doctorates, while 28 hold masters degrees or the equivalent. In addition, approximately 30 other

academics are accredited as external supervisors of MCD Higher Degree by Research candidates.

- Libraries: The MCD has 16 libraries associated with its colleges, and in 2006 launched MCDcat, a ‘virtual union catalogue’ which enables researchers to search them all online. College librarians meet regularly with the MCD administration under the auspices of LIAM (Libraries in Association with the Melbourne College of Divinity). The Joint Theological Library, renamed the Dalton McCaughey Library and relocated at the Uniting Church Theological College’s new Centre for Theology and Ministry, opened on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2007.
- In 2009, the MCD launched its Research and Reporting Repository, which is a web-based digital facility used to store and access the broad spectrum of MCD Theological Research, and is the only dedicated theological research repository in the world. Uploaded items are stored securely at the host site, Southampton University, United Kingdom. The Repository fosters international communication between academics and provides a valuable resource for anyone interested in Theological research.
- MCD has a primarily voluntary self-regulating Council, Board and Committee structures.

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