



## FORMATION FOR MISSION CASE STUDY SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GROWING IN FAITH COURSE

*The course is accredited with ACU and UNDA as an elective unit. ACU in MRE; MEd; MEd Leadership and with UNDA in MATS only as a replacement for Critical Issues in RE unit*

### Target Participants

The course is offered annually and is designed for teachers in Sydney Catholic Schools (Primary & Secondary) who have immediate or near competence to undertake the role of Religious Education Co-ordinator in Catholic schools. The course is for those teachers who have a minimum of five years teaching experience. The course allows those selected teachers to be reflective in their faith journey and willing to learn more about Catholic religious leadership. The course is residential conducted over four days.

### Selection of participants

Participants must complete an application form answering four specific questions – What about this course attracts you to enhance your faith journey? How might this course enhance your ability to be a religious leader in a Catholic school? What has inspired you to apply for this course at this time of your faith-life journey? Describe what you might hope to receive from participating in this course?

School principals must endorse their teacher's application by answering these questions: Comment on the qualities that this applicant exhibits in religious leadership in your school and or parish? In your opinion, how does this person display capacity to fulfil a position of religious leadership in your school or another school (eg. REC, Assistant REC, Assistant Principal)?

Further, the principal is asked to consider in their answers: How the applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and learning with particular reference to religious education? Demonstrates an interest in professional and personal formation and a capacity for future religious leadership?

### Mode(s) of Delivery/Facilitation

Lecture style, formal input, discussions, course readings, individual and group workshops, tutorial feedback

### **Frequency of Program**

Once annually

### **Program funding/costs**

Funded by Sydney Catholic Schools Religious Education & Evangelisation Directorate

### **Description of the Program (design, content, processes)**

The course covers areas of collaborative liturgical planning, Scripture, review of the Gospel of the Year, Church teaching, Second Vatican Council Four Constitutions, ethical thinking, Catholic view of leadership, Catholic social teaching, meditative prayer styles, personal testimony, private time for reflective prayer and reading, daily gathering in tutorial groups to review the day with discussion and feedback, opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation. Mass is celebrated daily.

### **Identification of participants' needs**

The course must meet certain criteria to be accredited by ACU and UNDA as a unit of study for the courses mentioned. By the participants' and their Principals' answering the questions on the application they decide whether the course meets their needs at the particular time. A panel reviews each application and depending on individual responses will be accepted or not accepted into the course.

### **Evaluation methods and the broad results of evaluation**

Each participant is asked to evaluate the course during its delivery. At the conclusion of the course the facilitators will review the evaluations and where necessary may make adjustments so that the course continues to be creditable and appropriate.

### **The four principles of formation (*Framework, p14*) that are most evident in participant evaluation**

# 3: sessions include word and sacrament Year of Matthew; the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council; Catholic Social Teaching; liturgical planning.

#4: ways of praying including meditation, prayer of the Church, labyrinth, opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation, daily Mass.

#8: opportunities for prayer and the sacraments; critical reflection and personal readings; ethical discussion; theological input and tutorial groups.

#9: broad overview of the faith formation of Head, Heart and Hands, spirituality, theology of prayer.

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