

New Religious Education program to help inspire the next generation of Catholic leaders

Delegates from Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Brisbane Catholic Education gathered last week for the launch of a pilot senior school Religious Education (RE) program to help inspire the next generation of Catholic leaders.

Religion, Meaning and Life (RML) is an innovative student-centred program responsive to student diversity, multiple learning priorities, family preference and system expectations in line with the vision and mission of the Catholic school.

More than 10 schools across the Archdiocese of Brisbane will take part in the pilot of RML, which aims to meet the diverse needs of students in the senior secondary years. Brisbane Catholic Education will invest significant resources to prepare RML teachers for the classroom.

Brisbane Catholic Education Executive Director, Pam Betts said, “Within a context of inclusion, religious pluralism, student agency, equity and authentic provision, Religious Education within the Catholic school is challenged to be responsive to needs and respectful of the Faith Tradition that inspires it.”

Deputy Executive Director, Dr Doug Ashleigh paid tribute to the Identity, Mission and Religious Education team who developed the program and identified its potential contribution to deep learning. He noted the program offered, “a meaningful and relevant RE option that sought to be consistent with quality pedagogy and content informed by the Catholic Tradition”.

ACU La Salle Academy staff, including Associate Professors William Sultmann and Janeen Lamb collaborated with ACU Faculty of Theology and Philosophy’s Senior Lecturer Dr Peter Ivers in working with Brisbane Catholic Education to develop the program review.

Dr Sultmann said, “The Brisbane Catholic Education programme is being supported by many. Our La Salle Academy role is to offer some additional and independent support and review of the programme as it takes shape.”

Dean of the La Salle Academy, Professor Brother David Hall indicated the privilege and responsibility of the Academy in undertaking the comprehensive two-year review, which will include “the identification of teacher perspectives on the development and implementation of the program; an assessment of program influences on student development; its alignment with parent expectations; and its capacity to inform on-going mechanisms and approaches to evidence-based reporting of RE outcomes.”

The partnership between ACU and Brisbane Catholic Education in sponsoring and developing the pilot program was identified as indicative of our commitment to shared mission.

Interested parties seeking specific information on the Religion, Meaning and Life initiative are encouraged to address communication to Mark Craig, Education Officer: Religious Education, Identity, Mission and Religious Education, Brisbane Catholic Education.

Photo from left to right: Associate Professor Janeen Lamb, Mr Mark Craig, Mr Paul Blom, Associate Professor Bill Sultmann and Dr Peter Ivers

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