

35/09 Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC)

(A report from the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee.)

1. The Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee (TEMOC) was formed in 2009 and is responsible for the distribution of funds allocated by Synod to ministries operating in Universities and Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions. The Committee is committed to supporting the development of evangelical tertiary ministries within the Diocese in accordance with the statement of vision, strategic priorities and core principles detailed in its report to the Synod in 2010 (refer to Synod Book 2010).
2. These are summarised below –
 - a. Vision (paragraph 9, Synod Book 2010): Our vision is to grow Bible-based ministries on each university and Vocational and Education and Training (VET) campus in the Diocese that are –
 - i. evangelistic,
 - ii. preparing students for a life-time of Christian service, and
 - iii. particularly concerned to raise up future generations of vocational Christian ministers.
 - b. Core Principles (paragraph 10, Synod Book 2010): In addition to the values in the vision above, we want these university and VET campus ministries to –
 - i. serve churches in partnership through training and equipping their members,
 - ii. as far as possible, work as a single united team on campus,
 - iii. develop effective ministry across the whole campus, including segments such as commuters, international students, postgraduates, staff and residents,
 - iv. have (Anglican) chaplains who will serve in these ministries, be recognized by the campus administration and advocate for the ministry.
 - c. Funding Model (Paragraph 11, Synod Book 2010): TEMOC funds are –
 - i. to help initiate new work on tertiary education campuses,
 - ii. to help resource campus based ministry traineeships to encourage the raising up of vocational Christian workers,
 - iii. not to be the sole funding source for any campus ministry.Funds will be available under two schemes (*with the quantum of each grant declining over a 2 to 4 year trajectory*) –
 - i. theologically trained workers,
 - ii. ministry traineeships.
3. The members of the Committee are Professor Christopher Bellenger (Chair), the Rev Patrick Benn, the Rev Richard Blight, the Rev Robert Copland, Dr Leela Crejar (appointed during year), Dr Sara Denize, the Rev Stephen Gooch, Ms Tracey Gowing (resigned during year), the Rev Peter Hughes (resigned during year), and Canon Mark Williamson.
4. Following the Synod 2012, the Committee (having met on four occasions) has –
 - i. reviewed reports from grant recipients on 2012 grants
 - ii. confirmed funding allocations for 2013, and
 - iii. called for and initiated review of grant applications for 2014.
5. The Committee was responsible for overseeing the distribution of the Synod allocation of \$158,000 to support Tertiary ministry in 2013. In addition \$20,000 that had been distributed in 2012 but not used on TEMOC supported projects was reallocated in 2013). Final grant applications were received for sixteen projects to the value of \$203,000. The committee considered each of the applications in accordance with the statement of vision, strategic priorities and core principles.
6. In 2013 funds were distributed to support ministry on twelve tertiary campuses. All University projects were initiated by Anglican chaplains in consultation with evangelical student groups on campus. VET positions were initiated by the Inter-College Christian Fellowship which has been formed to promote and support such ministry. Funds are all being used for part salaries of men and women actively working amongst students on campus including leadership in evangelism and evangelical teaching on campus, evangelism directed to specific groups (such as to student residences and to ethnic groups), training of a rising group of female workers and growing the work amongst VET students.

7. Funds were distributed as follows –

Tertiary Focus	Funds Recipient	Scheme	Ministry Focus	Project Contact	GRANT 2013
Cross Institutional	St Barnabas Anglican Church Broadway	Theologically Trained Worker	Residential worker	Rev Mike Paget	\$20,000
Cross Institutional	St Barnabas Anglican Church Broadway	Theologically Trained Worker	International worker	Rev Mike Paget	\$21,000
Macquarie University	Robert Menzies College	Theologically Trained Worker	Chaplain	Rev Scott Blackwell / Mr Bruce Pollard	\$10,000
Ultimo and Nirimba TAFE	ICCF - Anglican TAFE Ministries	Theologically Trained Worker	TAFE worker	Rev Patrick Benn	\$17,500
University of Wollongong	Anglican Chaplaincy Wollongong University	Theologically Trained Worker	Chaplain	Rev Rob Copland	\$7,500
University of Wollongong	Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students - Wollongong	Theologically Trained Worker	Muslim worker	Rev Rob Copland	\$5,000
University of Wollongong	Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students - Wollongong	Ministry Apprentice	Residential college trainee	Rev Rob Copland	\$10,000
UNSW	UNICHURCH / Campus Bible Study	Theologically Trained Worker	Women's worker	Rev Carl Matthei	\$10,000
UNSW	Campus Bible Study	Ministry Apprentice	Five women trainees	Rev Carl Matthei	\$30,000
UWS Bankstown	St John's Anglican Church, Padstow	Theologically Trained Worker	Chaplain	Rev Richard Blight	\$10,000
UWS Bankstown	St John's Anglican Church, Padstow	Ministry Apprentice	Women's worker	Rev Richard Blight	\$7,000
UWS Campbelltown	St Peter's Anglican Church / CBM Campbelltown	Theologically Trained Worker	Chaplain (Assistant)	Rev Adam Richards	\$10,000
UWS Penrith	St. Philip's Anglican Church, Kingswood	Theologically Trained Worker	Chaplain	Rev Steve Gooch	\$10,000
UWS Penrith / Hawkesbury	St. Philip's Anglican Church, Kingswood	Theologically Trained Worker	Women's worker	Rev Steve Gooch	\$10,000
TOTAL FUNDS					178,000

8. Several members of the Committee have direct involvement in student ministry on campus and from time to time are grant applicants. The Committee maintains a Conflict of Interest Register and any member with a conflict of interest does not speak to their application in committee or vote on its approval.

9. The Committee considered reports on all the projects funded in 2012. The reports confirmed the application of funds to the specified project and provided details of outcomes achieved from grant funding. Under God good work was done. For example, there has been good Bible based teaching on campuses across the dioceses included evangelic talks on the cross and suffering, as well as on 'sharing your faith', special presentations on contemporary concerns with speakers like Patricia Weerakoon and Haydn Sennitt talking on a range of relationship issues, and teaching from the Bible on *"the majestic book of Romans"* and with non-Christians the *"opportunity to read Mark's gospel and ask them to consider the claims of Jesus"*; about 20 students from one UWS campus attended a national training event and then spent five days on mission, in state schools and nursing homes around Nowra (with fruitful conversation and prayer); the baptism of an international student from China; Christian fellowship was supported in university residences across the dioceses *"which led to a number of students giving their lives to Jesus"*; at TAFE campuses workers meet with non-Christian students *"1-1 or in very small groups to read the Bible, pray and offer encouragement"*; there are growing relationships with Muslim students at the Nirimba TAFE campus; fruitful work has occurred in encouraging new workers on many campuses, *"I've seen them grow in their understanding of themselves and in their service of others. They have come to rely more deeply on their Lord."*

This is what one trainee said at the end of last year: *"It has been so humbling to see God work through me and in spite of me and especially being confronted with my limitedness of time and energy. So it's been especially good to learn / be reminded of the fact that it is he who is in control of all things, sovereign and very gracious! Probably the biggest lesson I'm learning about myself is to think more*

"sober mindedly" about who God has made me - to acknowledge my sin and not think too highly about myself but also acknowledge the strengths and gifts his given me."

10. The committee has called for applications for new and continuing projects in 2014. A total of fourteen applications requesting \$215,500 have been received for the first round review. Four applications are for new projects. Final decisions on grants will be made following the October meeting of Synod.

11. The committee requested Rev Patrick Benn to prepare a discussion paper considering Anglican ministry to the TAFE and CVET sector. The committee adopted a revised version of the paper and it is appended below for the consideration of Synod.

For and on behalf of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER R BELLENGER

Chairman

14 August 2013

Anglican ministry to TAFE and CVET sector

(An appendix to the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee Report.)

Preamble

TEMOC has been charged by Synod with furthering ministry to students in tertiary education throughout the Diocese, including the responsibility for:

- (c) *in consultation with appropriate bodies, preparing for Synod's consideration a diocesan policy framework, measurable goals and strategies on ministry in technical and further education colleges and other VET institutes, and also a policy on ministry in HEP's*

This discussion paper seeks to –

- Provide a brief overview of the TAFE/VET sector
- Give a brief history of Anglican involvement within this sector
- Discuss issues and propose some models for future strategic Anglican ministry in this sector

The VET Sector in NSW

Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions are either government or private providers and generally offer tertiary education to a certificate or diploma level. Data from NCVET (National Centre for Vocation Education Research (<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2509.html>)) gives the following snapshots for the VET sector within NSW in 2011.

There were 586,700 students enrolled including: 424,600 (72%) from TAFE and government providers, 111,700 (19%) from private providers, and 50,400 (9%) from community providers. TAFE NSW operates through its ten individual Institutes. There are four metropolitan and six regional Institutes with a total of over 130 campuses across NSW. Within the greater Sydney region (roughly approximating the Sydney Diocese) there are five Institutes with 41 campuses with 262,935 students in 2011. The breakdown of the student cohort is as follows: 15-19 yo (27%), 20-24 yo (15%), 25-44 yo (35%) and 45-64 yo (19%).

Of the total student population eighteen per cent were non-English speakers and eighty five percent were studying part-time and the four top 'Training packages' were Business services (18%), Community services (13%), Tourism, Hospitality & Events (11%) and Construction (7%).

Anglican involvement within the VET sector

Rev Craig Blacket from Sydney Diocese made a significant contribution to work with TAFE in NSW. Craig's vision and personality shaped his pioneering ministry among TAFE campuses, particularly in the Western region of the Diocese. He initiated and conducted ministries on campuses at Blacktown, Nirimba, Kingswood and Richmond. The model that Craig was advancing was one that recognized a connection between church, workplace and campus. This extended to Craig pastoring a congregation (Campus and Community church) from 2003 till 2008. From 2004 until 2009 Craig Blacket made sustained and repeated requests to establish a memorandum of understanding with TAFE NSW regarding multi-faith chaplaincies on TAFE campuses but with little progress. Craig is no longer serving in this area. This ministry was significantly supported by grants from the then Western Sydney regional Council.

Around 2005 the ministry to TAFE campuses was brought onto the Anglican Youthworks platform. Unfortunately the arrangement with Youthworks ceased towards the end of 2008.

In 2009 the Inter-College Christian Fellowship (ICCF). ICCF was formed as a inter-denominational incorporated association to continue and expand upon the work that Craig (and others had been doing). ICCF continues to operate and has employed various staff on a number of TAFE campuses around Sydney. (The board of ICCF comprises Rev Patrick Benn, Lisa Kemp, Norm Gorrie, Boris Feigin and Ben Hunter).

Issues

A number of issues arise when reflecting upon the past 15 years of TAFE ministry experience.

The VET sector remains one of the largest recognizable yet substantially unreached tribes within Sydney. It includes a segment of the Sydney population (blue collar workers) that the Diocese aspires to reach. There are significant opportunities for cross-cultural ministry but a need for intensive 1:1 ministry (in evangelism and with believing students and staff).

However one should not under-estimate the difficulties in establishing a successful evangelistic ministry in this sector. The current successful university model is of limited use. Unlike typical university students VET students have a wide age spectrum (more than half over 24yo with adult interests and obligations),

there is a large number of small institutes, there are many short courses (80% under 1 year) and a large number of part-time students with little free time on campus and (to date) there has been a distinct lack of institute management support. All these factors add complexity to any potential ministry.

The place of Anglican VET sector ministry within the Diocese has not been resolved. This may be partly due to personality issues but to date there has been limited support (pastorally, logistically and structurally) for the vision for winning the TAFE communities. A fundamental question for the future is who will provide the core leadership for this area of ministry? Should it be Anglican (parish or mission area based, AEC, Youthworks, Anglicare Chaplaincy, Schools Corporation, TEMOC) or the interdenominational ICCF or other body? And as a related question how will any work be funded?

The Anglican pathway for ordination is heavily weighted towards a university style of education. The training style of the VET sector follows a far more practical and applied approach to education. One of the blockages we have is that our core training pathway does not (by nature) suit those from a blue collar, working class, VET style background. There is a significant challenge in finding suitable people who may serve as vocational pastors in this area.

Given that the move to include the TAFE ministry on the Youthworks platform was seeking to achieve a number of things—including to (i) develop a recognized Chaplaincy using the AEC as an advocacy body, (ii) seek to secure tax deductibility through existing Youthworks programs and (iii) follow a similar model to the Youthworks regional advisors—there remain a number of unresolved questions –

- Does the resistance of TAFE NSW to accommodate even a multi-faith Chaplaincy mean that the Diocese should continue to pursue this as an option? Currently there is one TAFE campus (Ultimo) that recognizes a multi-faith Chaplaincy.
- Should tax deductibility for VET ministry be pursued?
- Could a variant of the current Youthworks SRE advisory model be applied to the VET (and particularly TAFE) sector? In such a case local parishes would be encouraged to identify, train and support members who serve the local TAFE campus, and who are assisted by a Diocesan TAFE Advisor.

There are also questions pertaining to the role of parishes in TAFE/CVET ministry. Can we identify key churches that have significant proportions of their congregations in (or from) TAFE backgrounds? Can we identify churches that are seeing growth from people with these backgrounds? How could these churches assist in developing a workable model of ministry?

The implications of the NSW State government's move to significantly restructure the NSW TAFE system must also be addressed. Other newer developments include the changing provisions of NSW TAFE who are now offering degree based programs (as opposed to just Diploma and Certificate programs)? This may develop into stronger links between TAFE/CVET and University sectors. However these developments are only now beginning to emerge.

Possible Models of ministry to the VET sector

1. The current university model

This model is similar to the model that many Anglican Chaplains have adopted for use on university campuses across the Diocese. The key catalyst in this model is a dedicated paid staff worker/chaplain who provides direction and longevity to the ministry in the ground. This model requires a significant and ongoing financial investment. Given that only 1 out of 40 TAFE campuses in the Sydney area recognise any form of Chaplaincy this model could prove problematic.

2. Parish partnership model

This model involves a sustained and ongoing partnership with a local parish. The parish would assume responsibility for evangelism and discipleship of students and staff on the local campus. This could involve staff time on the campus; say for example the youth minister spending 1-2 days per week doing outreach on the local VET campus. Parish involvement would work particularly well where a parish had a 'blue collar' MTS trainee on staff. Mission Area Leaders could have a role in encouraging links between parishes and their local VET campus.

3. The Mission Area approach

This model would require some wider regional based approach in the form of Mission Areas adopting VET Campuses and working for a suitable strategy. Without significant 'champions' the danger here is that ministry to VET institutes would be lost.

4. The industry model

This model is based more closely upon industry style chaplaincies. This model would seek to identify those who could free up themselves (or be paid to do so) on a part-time capacity to serve as industry based chaplains. This would enable greater access to TAFE teachers on the campuses, as well as giving them good connections to the students.

Recommendations

1. That the discussion paper on “Anglican ministry to TAFE and CVET sector” be noted by Synod.
2. That TEMOC proposes primary consideration of a parish partnership model with support from ICCF or Mission Areas as the most reasonable way forward in the present circumstances.
3. Parishes and all Anglican agencies be invited to respond to TEMOC.
4. Following receipt of responses TEMOC to host a consultation day with a view to bringing specific proposals to Synod 2014 for the direction and funding of this work.

For and on behalf of the Tertiary Education Ministry Oversight Committee

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER R BELLENGER

Chairman

14 August 2013