

Australian Catholic University launches new Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is increasing its capacity for collaboration with Catholic partners to inform, evaluate and enhance the quality of their services in areas that are central to ACU's mission and ethos.

Through the newly established Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit, ACU will provide scholarly expertise to organisations supporting those people experiencing marginalisation or disadvantage.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement Professor Sandra Jones says that ACU is committed to working with its partners in ways that are mutually beneficial and which better the lives of vulnerable people living in Australia and overseas.

"We are aware that many Catholic organisations are under-resourced and find it difficult to undertake scholarship activities to inform, improve and grow their services," Professor Jones says.

"Projects supported by the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit will help to address this problem, and many of them will bring about more just and compassionate social policies and services."

The Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit will be guided by an Advisory Group that includes the Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement (Chair), Pro Vice-Chancellor Arts and Academic Culture, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and three external representatives: Father David Braithwaite, Society of Jesus; Roby Curtis, Director for the Emmanuel City Mission; and Netty Horton, Chief Executive Officer of CatholicCare Melbourne.

The Advisory Group will play a key role in selecting projects for support by the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit, identifying potential directions for scholarship and disseminating project outcomes.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Arts and Academic Culture Professor Michael Ondaatje says that the projects will provide academic staff at ACU with opportunities to lead high-quality scholarship activities in line with ACU's Mission, and that build and strengthen the University's academic culture.

"Academic staff will engage with key community organisations and demonstrate their commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good," Professor Ondaatje said.

Given the high demand for ACU's expertise, and in anticipation of further demand, the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit will invite partners to submit project proposals for consideration by the Advisory Group. ACU may also initiate projects or exploratory work in strategic areas.

For more information on the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit, please email: sesu@acu.edu.au

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