

# Media Release

27 October 2023

## **BBI-TAITE now a Member Institute of the Sydney College of Divinity: a University College**

At BBI-TAITE we continue to monitor the work we do and the approaches we take to ensure that our teaching, courses, reach and pedagogy are in line with our mission. This has become more vital as we work with schools, teachers, leaders and school offices to maintain high quality religious education and theological leadership during the current primary and secondary education environment.

Circumstances lead to different opportunities and possibilities! This includes a re-visioning of our accreditation status. The Institute has been a Independent Higher Education provider for some time. We now have changed gear and joined the Sydney College of Divinity (SCD) for our accreditation status and practice. BBI-TAITE has been accepted as a full Member Institute of the Sydney College of Divinity: A University College (SCD).

We acknowledge Professor Stephen Smith, the Dean of the SCD, Dr Maggie Kappelhoff and Professor Peter Bolt and their teams for the gracious and professional approach they have taken as the onboarding process has taken place. The SCD holds University College status and with this it has also Self Accrediting Authority, allowing it to develop and approve its own programs. These are distinct advantages for BBI-TAITE, providing a broader base of support in the tertiary world while maintaining the flexibility and adaptability that has been so important in the work of the Institute.

A change like this can cause some confusion. The Institute is not closing! As a Member Institute of SCD we retain our integrity as an educational provider in light of our mission.

Our students will remain well served, with minimum disruption. While going forward they will enrol in programs under the SCD banner, the courses, units, lecturers, academic standards and credit arrangements will be the same as the former BBI-TAITE awards. This will commence in Session 3 this year. With SCD our students will also be able to enter doctoral awards supervised by BBI-TAITE faculty.

As for the broader mission of BBI-TAITE itself we will continue to run online professional development and adult faith units, along with other initiatives. We also remain very open to working up new courses that suit immediate needs.

BBI-TAITE is set to continue to fulfill the Objects of the Institute and serve the diverse needs of the church in Australia and the region.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to be in touch:

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