

## ALPHACRUCIS COLLEGE RESEARCH FOCI

Developing research specialities is a strategic step in positioning Alphacrucis College (AC) in the wider research landscape. Research foci facilitate decision-making in faculty hires, Higher Degree Research (HDR) scholarships, travel and incentive funding, and other allocations of resources. The foci represent areas of existing strength and/or areas for development in alignment with AC's ethos and strategic goals. However, they are not a comprehensive description of research undertaken at AC and do not prescribe or proscribe research topics for faculty members.

The foci draw on activities and resources of AC's research centres including: [Australasian Pentecostal Studies Centre](#), [Centre for the Future of Schooling](#); [Centre for Learning and Scholarship Skills](#); and the Jagelman Institute. However, not all foci are best advanced through a research centre. AC also actively encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, so there is considerable also overlap between research foci of each Faculty. The foci take into account the requirements of Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) and the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC). Therefore, they connect to ANZSRC Fields of Research (FoR) and HEIMSHelp Fields of Education (FoE).

### FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

#### Focus 1: Theology, Human Wellbeing and Flourishing

*FoE: 091703 Religious Studies*

*FoR: 2204 Religion and Religious Studies*

This encompasses cross-disciplinary approaches to wellbeing and flourishing from a theological perspective:

- Biblical and theological foundations of human wellbeing and flourishing
- Suffering and the human condition
- Theology and the human lifecycle (particularly focusing on childhood and aging)
- Theology, community and international development
- Disability and Theology
- Gender
- Human sexuality
- Pastor wellbeing and sustainability
- Intercultural Theology

#### Focus 2: Australasian Pentecostal Studies

*FoE: 091703 Religious Studies*

*FoR: 2204 Religion and Religious Studies*

Drawing on the activities and resources of the Australasian Pentecostal Studies Centre, this encompasses:

- Pentecostal history
- Pentecostal worship/music
- Indigenous Pentecostalism
- Pentecostal spirituality/Pentecostal missiology

#### Focus 3: Biblical Studies in the Contemporary World

*FoE: 091703 Religious Studies*

*FoR: 2204 Religion and Religious Studies*

This encompasses studies in Old and New Testament, as well as Biblical languages. Collaboration with scholars from other disciplines is particularly welcome:

- Biblical Languages
- Contextual Hermeneutics

### FACULTY OF BUSINESS

#### Focus 1: Leadership

*FoE: 080307 Organisation Management; and 080399 Business and Management*

*FoR: 1503 Business and Management*

This draws on the Jagelman Institute and encompasses:

- Church leadership
- Leadership in Christian Not-for-Profit Organisations
- Educational leadership
- Motivating volunteers
- Womens leadership
- Intercultural issues in leadership

### **Focus 2: Faith, Work and Economics**

*FoE: 080307 Organisation Management; and 080399 Business and Management*

*FoR: 1401 Economic Theory, 1503 Business and Management*

This encompasses:

- Whole of life discipleship, including the workplace
- Models for integration
- Relationships between economics and theology

### **Focus 3: Religious Organisations and Markets**

*FoE: 080307 Organisation Management; and 080399 Business and Management*

*FoR: 1503 Business and Management, 2204 Religion and Religious Studies*

This draws on our strong relationship with National Church Life Survey Research and encompasses:

- Social-scientific study of churches and other religious organisations
- Analysis of religious markets

## **FACULTY OF EDUCATION, ARTS and SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **Focus 1: Wellbeing in Schools**

*FoE 070300 Curriculum and Education Studies*

*FoR: 1301 Education Systems; and 1399 Other Education*

This and the following focus area draw on the Centre for the Future of Schooling. It encompasses:

- Effectiveness of schools, particularly Australian religiously-affiliated schools
- The role of spirituality in student well-being metrics for schools

### **Focus 2: Christian Pedagogy**

*FoE 070100 Teacher Education*

*FoR 1301 Education Systems, 1302 Curriculum and Pedagogy*

This focus area encompasses:

- Training and Professional Development of Teachers in Australian religiously-affiliated schools
- Higher Education Learning and Teaching

### **Focus 3. School and Society**

*FoE 070300 Curriculum and Education Studies*

*FoR: 1301 Education Systems; and 1399 Other Education*

This encompasses:

- The effects of school choice and the varied Australian school sectors on the social contract
- The patterns of new non-government school development and its relationships to policy
- School enrolment patterns, their relationship to policy and funding

### **Focus 4: Human Welfare and Counselling**

*FoE 0905 Human Welfare and Services; 0907 Behavioural Science*

*FoR 1701 Psychology*

This encompasses:

- Psychology and wellbeing
- Christian counselling
- Trauma and abuse