

MISSION AND HISTORY



It is the Mission of ACU National which provides its raison d'être and the essential focus for all its activities. It is this focus, coupled with a realised maturity, grounded in evidence of its quality, that allows the University to confidently present itself to others as a totally Mission-orientated, imaginative, and quality-based institution.

The *ACU National Annual Report 2006* explores the unique Mission of the University through five key themes – Quality Teaching and Research, Serving the Common Good, The Student Experience, The Ties That Bind and Employer of Choice – as they relate to the year in review '2006'.

Mission

Australian Catholic University shares with universities world wide a commitment to quality in teaching, research, and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free inquiry and academic integrity.

The University's inspiration, located within 2,000 years of Catholic intellectual tradition, summons it to attend to all that is of concern to human beings. It brings a distinctive spiritual perspective to the common tasks of higher education.

Through fostering and advancing knowledge in education, health, commerce, the humanities, the sciences and technologies, and the creative arts, Australian Catholic University seeks to make a specific contribution to its local, national and international communities.

The University explicitly engages the social, ethical and religious dimensions of the questions it faces in teaching, research and service. In its endeavours, it is guided by a fundamental concern for justice and equity, and for the dignity of all human beings.

Australian Catholic University has a primary responsibility to provide excellent higher education for its entire diversified and dispersed student body. Its ideal graduates will be highly competent in their chosen fields, ethical in their behaviour, with a developed critical habit of mind, an appreciation of the sacred in life and a commitment to serving the common good.

History

Australian Catholic University (ACU National) was established in November 1990 through incorporation as a public company limited by guarantee, registered in the State of Victoria. It was subsequently recognised as a University under the *Australian Catholic University (Victoria) Act 1991* and provides this report to the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment.

The University was formed through the amalgamation of the Catholic College of Education (NSW), the Institute of Catholic Education (Vic), McAuley College (Qld) and Signadou College of Education (ACT).

Today, ACU National has six campuses nationally:

Brisbane (McAuley at Banyo)
North Sydney (MacKillop)
Strathfield (Mount Saint Mary)
Canberra (Signadou)
Ballarat (Aquinas)
Melbourne (St Patrick's)