

Graduate Certificate of Pastoral Care for Mental Health



Professional development opportunities in pastoral care and mental health

The Graduate Certificate of Pastoral Care for Mental Health at Mary Andrews College offers specialised training in pastoral responses to mental health and wellbeing with a focus on preventative and reactive strategies.

While awareness of mental health issues in the church and the wider community is growing, ministry workers report feeling under-equipped to care effectively for those experiencing mental health challenges.

The Graduate Certificate course is comprised of four units and can be completed over 1 or 2 years. Alternatively, each individual unit can be studied as a stand-alone professional development unit.

All units can be undertaken online in real-time or in-person at our campus in the Sydney CBD.

What students are saying:

“I totally recommend anyone to take part in this pioneering and biblically grounded course that is so wonderfully led by Keith Condie and supported by the amazing MAC team! I feel better equipped and more confident to serve those around me. I’m also inspired and encouraged to know that our God cares about my individual wellbeing and the flourishing of humanity at large”

– James

“It was a truly enriching experience to learn about a range of topics on mental health and wellbeing in such a supportive environment. I grew so much throughout the course, both intellectually and personally. My relationship with God was also profoundly impacted. Our lecturer had a rich and in-depth knowledge to share, and I appreciated being able to draw upon the experience of classmates from a range of backgrounds and professions.”

– Polly



This course is for:

- Ministry workers seeking a greater understanding of mental health challenges and appropriate pastoral responses.
- Christians working in schools with pastoral care and wellbeing responsibilities.
- Christians working in the area of mental health seeking a theological framework for their professional practice.
- Anyone who would like to grow in a biblical and theological understanding of mental health and wellbeing.

SEMESTER 1, 2022 UNITS

Theological Perspectives on Mental Health

Tuesdays 2-5pm (12 weeks starting 22 February)

There is increasing awareness around mental health in our society and in the church. But how do we make sense of mental health challenges from a Christian perspective? This unit will help you develop a sound biblical and theological understanding of mental health to inform your Christian ministry or professional work.

Pastoral Care for those with Mental Ill-Health

Wednesdays 4-7pm (12 weeks starting 23 February)

The unit will present a biblically and theologically informed approach to providing effective pastoral care for people living with mental ill-health and those caring for them. You will learn about common mental health conditions and the treatments provided by mental health professionals. You will also come to appreciate the distinctive contributions that churches and pastoral carers can offer alongside the work of mental health professionals.

SEMESTER 2, 2022 UNITS

Pastoral and Church-Focused Ministry Seminar: Theological and Pastoral Perspectives on Trauma

Tuesdays 2-5pm (12 weeks starting 26 July)

This unit will consider the nature and impact of trauma in its various forms upon individuals, families, and communal groups. It provides a biblical and theological framework for understanding trauma and will equip you to apply the principles of trauma-informed care and practice in ministry and professional settings.

Theological Approaches to Wellbeing

Wednesdays 4-7pm (12 weeks starting 27 July)

That Jesus claims to offer life to the full and also commands that we deny ourselves suggests that there is a distinctly Christian understanding of human wellbeing. This unit will explore historical and contemporary ideas about human flourishing and wellbeing from disciplines such as philosophy and positive psychology. These will be critically assessed from a biblical and theological framework, with a view to application in ministry and professional settings and in your personal life.

For more information about applying to study the Graduate Certificate of Pastoral Care for Mental Health, visit: mac.edu.au/graduate-certificate or contact macmin@mac.edu.au



**Applications
now open for
2022**



Mary Andrews College is an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology. The Diplomas and Graduate Certificate courses run at MAC are accredited by the ACT. The Certificate in Theology is an unaccredited (non AQF) award. www.actheology.edu.au

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