



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**POSITION:** Youth Minister  
**REPORTS TO:** Principal  
**REVIEWED:** June 2018

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### PURPOSE & AIMS

The purpose and aims of the Youth Minister's role at Mercy Catholic College is in the context of the College being part of the Broken Bay Diocese system of schools. The role reflects a national vision and framework and the Diocesan and College's Mission and Vision Statements.

The National Vision as described in *Anointed and Sent* (ACBC, 2009) sets out three goals for youth ministry in Catholic schools in Australia:

1. to foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person
2. to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community
3. to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

The Mission Statements of the Broken Bay Diocese and its system of Catholic schools are as follows:

*"The Diocese of Broken Bay exists to evangelise, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, gathered as friends in the Lord and sent out to be missionary disciples"*

*"Catholic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay exist to educate and form young people in Catholic discipleship: offering them experiences of following Jesus as members of the Catholic community."*

The goals and priorities of the work of the Youth Minister will be aligned with the College's Mission and Vision Statements and, where appropriate, the Mission Goals within the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

### Our Vision

Through excellence in education, our young women become critical and creative thinkers with a sense of social responsibility and discipleship.

### Our Mission

The Mercy Catholic College Mission is to work within the Catholic tradition and Mercy charism to educate, empower and inspire independent young women to achieve academic, social and spiritual growth.

### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

The goals and priorities of the work of the Youth Minister will be determined by the College Principal in consultation with the Director of Mission and Religious Education (DOM) in consideration of the purpose and aims of the role. The key accountabilities of the Youth Minister are outlined below:

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## 1. ASSIST TEACHERS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN FOSTERING THE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF STUDENTS

Religious Education, as evangelisation, is “at the service of education in the faith.” It “sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel” (General Directory for Catechesis, #75, #73). The Director of Mission & the Youth Minister, with teachers of Religious Education, strive together towards the same ultimate goal, “...to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ”. (GDC, #236).

Working in support of the DOM, the Youth Minister will develop the confidence and capacity of teachers of Religious Education to lead and integrate:

- appropriate forms of Catholic prayer and meditation such as the *Awareness Examen*
- creative teaching strategies and learning activities that engage students in exploring and thinking more deeply about and praying in response to, reflection on the Scriptures such as *Lectio* and *Visio Divina*.
- learning related to opportunities for peer ministry and the service of others.

## 2. DEVELOP THE RELIGIOUS LIFE AND IDENTITY OF THE COLLEGE

The Catholic life, community and culture of the College comprises a number of interrelated areas including prayer and liturgy, social justice and charitable works, Reflection days and Retreats.

### a. Liturgy

The full, conscious and active participation of staff and students is the goal to be considered before all others in the renewal of school prayer and liturgy. The Youth Minister will help prepare students to participate in liturgy through word and gesture, song and silence.

### b. Formation of students

The Youth Minister will have a significant role in the formation of students as College and community leaders, particularly those eager to share the Gospel with their peers through ‘peer-to-peer ministry’. The College draws on the Catholic Schools Youth Ministers Association’s (CSYMA) vision and four-phase model for school-based faith formation of students.

### c. Reflection days and retreats

The Youth Minister, in consultation with the DOM, plans and facilitates Reflection days and Retreats that research continues to identify as a significant school-based influence on student faith development.

## 3. ENABLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN PARISH, DIOCESAN, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVALS AND EVENTS.

The success of parish, Diocesan, national and international youth festivals and events requires the enthusiasm and commitment of the Youth Minister. The Youth Minister is responsible for promoting such events, the formation of students prior to and following events, and leading and accompanying students to events.



#### 4. CHARITABLE WORKS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

To serve others, is to imitate Christ who came, “to bring good news to the poor...to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (c.f. Luke 14: 16-21). In the *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis exhorts all Christians to respond to the Gospel, to live it more fully and more deeply and joyfully, to reach out to the poor and broken, to end injustice, to build peace.

The Youth Minister will inspire and coordinate the efforts of staff and students in support of Catholic welfare, aid and social justice agencies, ensuring such efforts are accompanied by education for justice and peace.

#### 5. DEVELOP A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Minister plans, implements and evaluates initiatives aligned with the purposes, aims and goals of youth ministry in collaboration with the DOM and other College leaders, teachers of Religious Education, student leaders, parish clergy and other Youth Ministers, Catholic Youth Broken Bay and Catholic Schools Office staff.

#### 6. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND FORMATION

To most effectively exercise their ministry, Youth Minister will participate in opportunities for faith formation and on-going theological and religious studies to nurture and develop their personal faith and knowledge of Catholic Faith and Tradition as well as the specialised tasks of teaching and youth ministry. The Youth Minister is expected to participate in regular meetings of Religious Education Coordinators and Assistant RECs at a system level to foster the collaboration necessary for effective evangelisation and Catholic formation of students.

### ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Highly developed understanding of and personal commitment to Catholic education and formation;
- Appropriate post graduate qualifications in theology and religious education/spiritual formation;
- Relevant teaching, youth ministry and/or leadership experience in Catholic education;
- An ability to articulate and embed the teachings of the Catholic Church in realising the purposes, aims and goals of Catholic education and youth ministry in the Broken Bay Diocese;
- An ability to build positive relationships in coordinating and collaborating with other school leaders, teachers and students;
- Sound understanding of youth spirituality and learning and Catholic formation principles.

### ATTRIBUTES

- A personal commitment to participation in the life and mission of the Catholic Church, particularly within a parish context;
- A personal commitment to and confidence and capacity in witnessing their own Catholic faith;
- Professional manner and presentation;
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills;
- Ability to operate with discretion and to maintain confidentiality;
- Proactive and self-motivated;
- Ability to work collaboratively and consultatively.