Introducing the Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry
Children and Families ministry is an exciting and highly rewarding area of ministry practice.

The Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry is awarded by the University of Divinity and presents an opportunity to enhance your ministry skills, to increase your capacity for engaging ministry and to learn in a caring, interactive and stimulating environment with others committed to intentional ministry with children and their families.

Offering a unique breadth of engagement unavailable elsewhere, you’ll enjoy becoming one of the first holders of the Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry in Australia and will have the confidence that you are more fully equipped for your ministry.

You’ll experience a cohesive cohort of students who will coalesce, resource and encourage one another, growing the field together by building a culture that values education, formation and great ministry with children and their families.

You will explore Christian traditions, texts and spirituality through the lens of child theology in a supportive, collegiate environment. You’ll evaluate pastoral practices and theories of child development, particularly as they apply to ministry with children and families.

You’ll be able to articulate a nuanced vision of mission to and with children and their families, particular to various ministry contexts and cultural settings – such as congregational ministry, chaplaincy, church planting among young families and child centred community development.
Course outline

The Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry [GCCFM]

The Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry consists of three 15-point units, two of which are compulsory and delivered in the form of Intensive units, while the third unit is selected in consultation with the Pilgrim Theological College Coursework Co-ordinator.

1) Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues in Diverse Contexts (February 2016);

2) The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children (November 2016); and

3) A further 15-point unit.

The University of Divinity Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry is your pathway to both enhancement of your ministry capacity and formal recognition of your skills in ministry with children and their families.

Compulsory units

1) Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues in Diverse Contexts
   DA1000P/DA8000P
   This unit examines the theological, developmental and methodological resources for contextual children and families ministries across the spectrum of Australian church based, community based and para-church expressions. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for evaluating and designing robust, contextual processes for discipleship, pastoral care, safe practice, mission and leadership with children and their families.

2) The Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children
   DA/DS 2/3/9030P and DA/DS 2/3/9039P (online)
   This unit explores the historical and current interest in the spiritual life and the spiritual development of children. It examines links between Scripture, theological thought, spiritual and psychological development, neurobiology and ministry with children. The unit seeks to develop more informed ministries of protection and respect in pastoral care and religious education.
“Many churches seek to engage individuals with suitable qualifications in children and families ministry. However, until now, there has been no academic award, tertiary or otherwise, in the specific area of children and families ministry. This graduate certificate provides a recognised qualification for this important and increasingly recognised area of ministry.”

Chris Barnett, Centre for Theology & Ministry’s Children and Families Ministry Co-ordinator

Entry requirements

Applicants for enrolment in the Graduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry will usually have obtained a Bachelor degree (in any field) or have a minimum of five years of relevant work experience or relevant professional attainment.

Detailed information on entry requirements for specific Undergraduate and Postgraduate awards can be accessed online at www.divinity.edu.au/study/our-courses, with more information on regulations governing the specific Award at https://www.divinity.edu.au/documents/regulation-75/.

All students at the University of Divinity must enrol through one of its Colleges and complete an admission or re-enrolment form.

Fees and FEE-HELP

Information on course costs, the government’s FEE-HELP scheme and University of Divinity bursaries are available from College websites Pilgrim pilgrim.edu.au/student-information/fees/ Stirling stirling.edu.au/fees-and-fee-help/.

Further details

The Coursework Co-ordinators at Pilgrim Theological College (Fotini Toso) and Stirling Theological College (John Williamson) can discuss entry requirements and provide details on course structure and enrolment information.

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