Doctoral Scholarship

Missing the Mark? Challenges for Meaning, Community Building, and Justice in an Ageing Population

A COLLABORATION OF THE LAURDEL FOUNDATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, has undertaken to support the establishment of a Centre for Human Ageing under the direction of Dr Laurence McNamara. The Centre will focus on human ageing from four perspectives: theology, spirituality, pastoral care, and ethics.

The College is seeking a suitably qualified researcher to organise documentation and resources for the new Centre. The researcher will focus primarily on gathering and organising bibliographical resources and preparing material suitable for publication.

This research will be undertaken as part of applying for and commencing the doctoral project Missing the Mark? Challenges for Meaning, Community Building, and Justice in an Ageing Population. An applicant who satisfies the University’s PhD entrance requirements will be awarded a designated place with funding for tuition fees from the Research Training Scheme (RTS).

The focus of the research to be undertaken for the PhD appears below.

Scholarship Conditions

- $38,000 stipend for one year (renewable subject to extension of funding)
- 9.5% superannuation
- Tuition fees throughout the PhD funded by Research Training Scheme
- Office facilities at Catholic Theological College

Further Information

- Outline of the doctoral project (see below)
- Position description (see below)
- PhD course information: [www.divinity.edu.au/study/our-courses/doctor-of-philosophy](http://www.divinity.edu.au/study/our-courses/doctor-of-philosophy)

Application Details

- Enquiries: Dr Laurence McNamara ☎ 0419 990 824
- Applications, including CV and academic referees:
  The Master, Catholic Theological College, [master@ctc.edu.au](mailto:master@ctc.edu.au)
- Due date for applications: October 14, 2016
Research/Thesis Focus

Missing the Mark?
Challenges for Meaning, Community Building, and Justice
in an Ageing Population

1. Missing the Mark?
   a. Aged care in Australia focuses primarily on service delivery with a limited focus.
   b. How do we develop a clearer understanding and more specific evaluation of what ageing means for the individual and society?
   c. The ‘lived experience’ of ageing persons must be understood if policy, strategic planning, pastoral care, and community responses are to “hit the mark”.
   d. Ongoing qualitative research focusing on the lived experience of Australians growing old is a priority.

2. Meaning – by:
   a. Developing a rigorous theological understanding of human ageing.
   b. Using such a theology to enrich and inform engagement with the spirituality and spiritual journey of ageing.

3. Community Building - through:
   a. Exploration of ‘communities of meaning’ and their contribution to holistic ageing will be enhanced by listening to those who are ageing.
   b. Enabling the building of communities where ageing people are moved from the margins, physically and ideologically, to full participation in their communities.
   c. An understanding and application of pastoral care responses appropriate to ageing persons living at home in their communities as well as in residential environments.

4. Justice – envisages a world where:
   a. Justice-making establishes right relationships between people and with God. The study of human ageing focuses on the care required to enhance the quality of people’s experiences in the latter phases of their life journey.
   b. Justice considerations open up a study of the ethical dimensions of human ageing.
Research Assistant
Doctoral Scholarship: Missing the Mark?

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant

Reports to: Master, Catholic Theological College (CTC)

Conditions: Full time, 12-month appointment
(renewable subject to extension of funding)

Scholarship: $38,000 gross per annum, plus 9.5% superannuation
Tuition fees funded by Research Training Scheme

Duties

Under the direction of Rev. Dr Laurence McNamara cm:

1. develop comprehensive bibliographies in humanistic gerontology that will provide a basis for research, publishing, and teaching activities;

2. in liaison with the Manager of the Mannix Library, and in communication with the other libraries of the University of Divinity, assist in organising library resources that will contribute to the formation of a dedicated collection on the humanistic aspects of human ageing;

3. plan and organise the initial publications of the proposed Centre for Human Ageing.

Under the direction of Rev. Dr Laurence McNamara cm and Rev. Dr Alan Niven:

4. prepare application for admission to the PhD for the project: Missing the Mark? Challenges for Meaning, Community Building, and Justice in an Ageing Population;

5. begin work on this doctoral project, especially by undertaking a review of the relevant literature review.

Other duties as required.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

1. Well organised with an ability to work with limited direct supervision.

2. The ability to negotiate, supervise and work collaboratively with others in the development of teaching resources and research projects.

3. Strong written and oral communication skills and a demonstrated capacity to use these skills with a research focus.

4. Well-developed computer literacy skills.

5. A capacity to support and further the aims and ideals of Catholic higher education: well-motivated to work for the Church in its service of society and ideally possess a commitment to its values and practices within an ecumenical context of learning and research.
6. Qualifications appropriate to the field of interest that satisfy the entrance requirements of the PhD at the University of Divinity.

**Additional Information**

1. Catholic Theological College is located at 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002, and offers theological degree courses at undergraduate, graduate and research levels, as a College of the University of Divinity.

2. Further information on the College is available at [www.ctc.edu.au](http://www.ctc.edu.au)