



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Rockhampton

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF SENIOR SECONDARY



**‘School can and should function as a catalyst, being a place of encounter and convergence of the entire educational community with the single objective of shaping and helping [the students] to grow as mature, simple, honest, and competent persons who know how to love faithfully, who know how to live their lives as a response to God’s call and their future professions as a service to society.’**

(Pope Francis, 2013)





## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF SENIOR SECONDARY

All secondary schools in Queensland will implement the new Queensland Certificate (QCE) and tertiary entrance systems from 2019.

The new systems include:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and external assessment
- processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- introduction of the Australian Tertiary Rank (ATAR)

(QCAA 2017, [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au))

Catholic education recognises that successful teaching and learning involves challenging, yet developmentally appropriate programming so that young people can reach the fullness of their potential. To that end, Catholic Education commits to the Prep to Year 10 Australian curriculum and the QCAA senior syllabuses.

### Year 10 – Preparatory Year to Senior Syllabuses

Year 10, as the first year of the senior phase of learning, is a pivotal point in the educational journey of students. As the final year of the P-10 Australian Curriculum, it serves as an important foundation for the senior syllabuses. The best preparation for success in the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) system is to teach, assess and report on the Prep to Year 10 Australian Curriculum prior to the commencement of senior studies. Except on rare occasions, students will commence Unit One of the senior syllabuses in Year 11.

The *QCE and QCIA Handbook* (1.6), articulates learning options and advice on the place of Year 10 in secondary schooling. In addition to the importance of the Year 10 Australian curriculum achievement standard, general capabilities and standards elaborations, Year 10 is recognised as an important time of decision making and preparation. Students need time to maturely discern the complexities and broadness of subjects on offer in Year 11. Preparatory courses and/or introduction to skills required in senior, such as increased cognitive recall and assessment readiness, are valid emphases in the lower years of secondary schooling.

### Senior Education and Training Plan – Setting the Scene

The Senior Education and Training Plan (SET Plan), completed in Year 9 or 10, is an important component to ensuring the transition from Year 10 to Year 11 is seamless. Assisting students to have a clear understanding of career and possible tertiary pathways, based on their interests, abilities and life goals, is an important process. The nature of Year 11 and 12 in the new system suggests subject changes are to be discouraged so effective SET-P procedures are paramount.

### The Subject of Religion – an essential component to a Catholic Education

Catholic colleges seek to prioritise young people's spirituality and Catholic religious understanding until the conclusion of Year 12. Consequently, students enrolled in Catholic colleges in the Diocese of Rockhampton will study a Religion subject

- *Study of Religion*
- *Certificate III of Ministry and Theology or*
- *Religion & Ethics*

for the entirety of Year 11 and 12.

