



Strategic Plan

Mandate

TCI is mandated by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference to be a national provider of tertiary qualifications and theological formation in Catholic Theology, Religious Education and Ministry for the Catholic Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. This mandate is carried out within the framework of *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, and in the context of the New Zealand Catholic Church's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

TCI's Vision

The vision for The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand (TCI) is captured in *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, (Apostolic Constitution for Catholic Institutions of Higher Learning). Accordingly, TCI aspires to an authentic Catholicity through its ongoing “reflection in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge”, to which TCI endeavours to contribute. [ECE 14] Through knowledge, voice and conscience TCI seeks to demonstrate a commitment to human dignity, mutual respect, and the pursuit of truth and service to Church and Society. TCI strives to be relevant to contemporary concerns; provide an institutional witness to the person of Christ and his message; and foster effective partnerships that strengthen research, teaching and community engagement.

The distinctive vision for TCI discerned by the New Zealand Bishops emphasises that this vision of *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, must be:

- lived out within the unique cultural context of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- contribute to the evangelising mission of the Church;
- provide educational qualifications that are robust and widely accessible;
- deliver portable qualifications;
- be attractive to Young People, Māori and Pasifika communities and;
- be deeply connected to the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Mission Statement

TCl is a National provider for tertiary qualifications in Catholic Theology, Religious Education and Ministry; we develop formative educational resources for Catholic Schools and Parishes; and we conduct professional research into key social issues to promote and support the development of the Catholic faith in our communities.

The mission of TCl is to:

- Provide intellectual leadership to and for the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, through academic rigour, relevant research, engaging teaching and a compelling voice on important social issues;
- Foster a culture of inquiry, curiosity and contemporary faith understanding in the New Zealand Church, through the impact, example and advocacy of teachers and ministers who have been educated and formed through TCl courses;
- Direct the development, evaluation, theological consultation and review of Religious Education and faith formation resources and programmes for Catholic children and young people that are relevant, engaging, and faithful to Church documents and teaching;
- Cultivate partnerships within and beyond New Zealand that add value and appeal to the student experience at TCl and offer teaching staff access to a broader community of scholars.

Strategic Goals

CHARACTERISTICS

TCl will pursue its goals and objectives in ways that reflect the following characteristics:

- **Catholicity:** an institutional commitment to bring the Gospel message into dialogue with the cultures and traditions of Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse contemporary society;
- **Partnership:** developing partnerships with diocesan, national and international theological, pastoral and research communities to effectively reach our stakeholders, and to understand and deliver to those needs responsively and flexibly;
- **Leadership:** working with the New Zealand Catholic community to facilitate a shift in culture towards ongoing education and formation in faith;
- **Dialogue:** listening attentively to key stakeholders and collaborating with the wider church to discern community needs;
- **Flexibility and Innovation:** meeting the needs of the broader Catholic Community through a commitment to flexibility and innovation in research and teaching methods, use of technology and in business processes;
- **Treaty of Waitangi:** honouring the origins of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand as deeply rooted in te reo Māori and as a witness to the Treaty promises.

Strategic Goal One:

TCI is mandated by the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand to provide tertiary qualifications in Catholic Theology, Religious Education and Ministry at the national level.

Strategies

1. Through a range of delivery methods make TCI programmes nationally accessible;
2. Secure a 'category one' NZQA rating for our Institute through the maintenance of consistently high Educational Performance Ratings;
3. Collaborate in the continuous development and delivery of Māori Spirituality;
4. Promote and provide for the ongoing theological and religious education qualifications of teachers in our Catholic Schools;

Strategic Goal Two:

The wider Catholic Community in all its ethnic diversity is aware of and engaged with TCI.

Strategies

1. Dialogue and collaborate with key national church organisations and chaplaincies for the benefit of the Catholic people of Aotearoa New Zealand;
2. Continue to develop and apply innovative teaching and learning methods and technologies to the benefit of diverse Catholic communities;
3. Take TCI out into the wider community through the development of key resources of topical interest;
4. In collaboration with diocesan stakeholders identify pathways to ministry;

Strategic Goal Three:

TCI plays a leading role in resourcing the understanding and development of the Catholic faith in our parish and school communities.

Strategies

1. Develop effective and durable relationships with key diocesan units;
2. Lead the ongoing growth and development of the national Religious Education curricula for NZ's Catholic Early Childhood Centres, Primary and Secondary Schools;
3. Assist and promote the ongoing development of Catholic Character across Catholic early childhood; primary and secondary Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand;
4. Lead the ongoing development of resources for use in the religious education of Catholic children and young people not enrolled in Catholic schools;

Strategic Goal Four:

TCI is committed to bi-cultural engagement in support of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Strategies

1. Actively mentor Māori students and recruit Māori staff to TCI;
2. Develop effective resources for Māori Catholics in Aotearoa New Zealand;
3. Foster workable relationships with Wānanga;
4. Encourage participation and partnerships with Rūnanga;

Strategic Goal Five:

Led by the Nathaniel Centre, TCI is nationally recognised as a credible source of authentic Catholic commentary and research on issues of social and ethical relevance to the wider community of Aotearoa New Zealand

Strategies

1. Actively contribute to and support public debates on issues of social justice and national social concern;
2. Participate in research and publications into issues of social, cultural, ethical and religious concerns;
3. Develop partnerships and collaborate with Catholic and other national bodies on key public voice initiatives;

Strategic Goal Six:

TCI functions as a fit for purpose organisation with a wide base of support.

Strategies

1. Promote collaboration through diocesan, corporate and other appropriate bodies to develop programme quality, and participate in the cost-effective use of skills and resources;
2. Identify and refine operational systems to ensure they are flexible, reliable and cost-effective;
3. Ensure TCI maintains a sound financial position by identifying additional sources of income and monitoring expenses.