6th EnT Annual Conference

Social Engagement in Accordance of the King's Philosophy for Highly Valued and Sustainable Local Development

University-Community Engagement – lessons learned from Studied Case in Australia

**Professor Jim Nyland,
Associate Vice-Chancellor
Australian Catholic University
President Engagement Australia**

**Uttaradit Rajabhat University
July 3-5 2019**

A bit about me…

- AVC ACU Queensland
- President Engagement Australia
- 15 years in Australian universities UQ, Griffith, ACU); 10 years in UK universities (Hull, Lincoln and Derby).
- Married to Joanne with two kids, James and Jemma,
- two cats,
- one dog…
- …and a koala…

Welcome to Country

3

Unity in Diversity in Australian universities

- **42 Universities, 2 private**

- **Over 1 million students**

- **Quality standards - TEQSA**

- **HE is Big Business - Australia's second largest export**

- **Diverse sector includes: Research Intensive; Innovative Research; Technology; Regional; Dual sector**

Our understanding of what makes University/Community Engagement in the 21st Century is changing

- Great global universities need to be great at being local – the rise of the Australian **Civic University** (Global Universities Engagement Summit, 2019).

- The idea of community is under severe challenge and needs definition – needs to be **Partnership** driven (the Australian pilot of the Carnegie Engagement system 2019 – 2020)

- Critically engaged universities need to have a multi-disciplinary curriculum that addresses the Big Issues of our time…**Melbourne model** **https://vimeo.com/140389075**.

LOCAL - Brisbane Campus, Brisbane

- ACU is a public university, welcomes everyone
- In 1991, four institutions merged to form ACU
- Now 9 campuses across Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT (1 in Rome)
- Over 27,0000 students (EFTSL - Equivalent Full Time Student Load) or over 37,000 students (Headcount)
- 2,100 employees (Headcount)
- Over 80 undergraduate courses

ACU Campus Locations

Campus Location

Brisbane

North Sydney

Strathfield

Canberra

Melbourne

Ballarat

Adelaide

Rome
Blacktown (new)

ACU Growth 2009-2019

	2009	2019
Students(Headcount)	18,000	37,000
Courses(All)	250	500
Subjects	1,500	3,000
Postgraduate courses	130	300
Academic FTE *(Excluding Casuals)*	450	900
Professional FTE *(Excluding Casuals)*	600	1,200

ACU Research Ranking in 2019

equal
first

ACU ranks equal first for ten
fields of research in Australia
(from five in 2015) [1]

Cardiorespiratory Medicine and Haematology   *new*
Clinical Sciences   *new*
Human Movement and Sports Science
Nursing
Nutrition and Dietetics   *new*
Public Health and Health Services
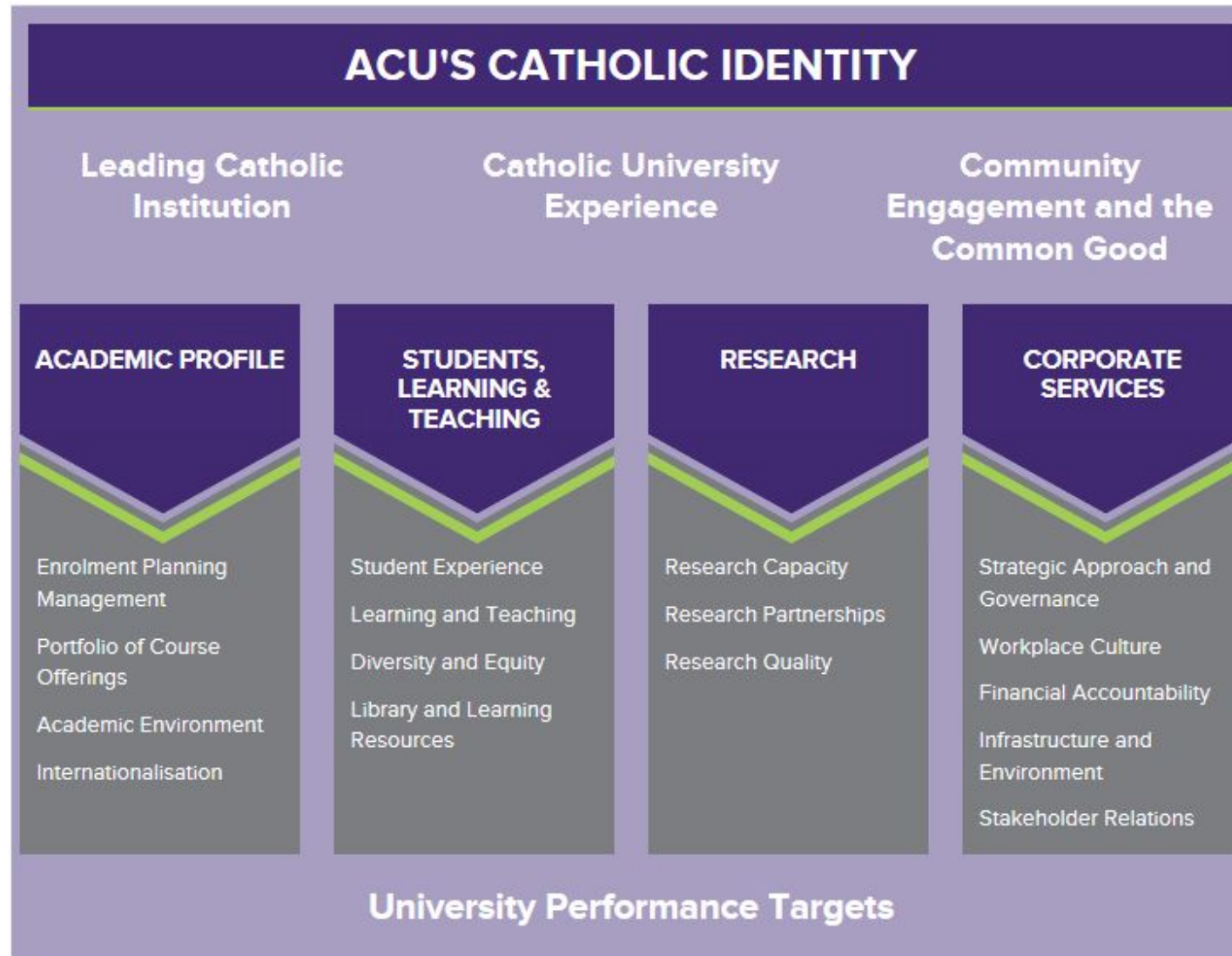Specialist Studies in Education   *new*
Psychology
Cognitive Sciences   *new*
Religion and Religious Studies

ACU Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Unique Organisational Structure

Australian Catholic University Limited – Corporation

- Chancellor

- Vice-Chancellor and President

- The Senate, Chapters

- Academic Board

- Campus Board

- Provost

- Chief Operating Officer

- Deputy-Vice-Chancellors

  DVC Research

  DVC Education & Innovation

  DVC Co-ordination

- Pro Vice Chancellors (Engagement); (International); (Arts & Academic Culture);

- Vice President Identity & Mission

- Associate Vice-Chancellors and Campus Deans

- VCP Strategy Group, Executive Planning Group

- Directors and Executive Deans

- Academic and Professional Staff and Students

Brisbane Campus, Brisbane

Community Engagement
Global Partnership Agenda

Beyond Today community engagement agenda - creating hope and belief in a better tomorrow through the following three themes:

Beyond Disadvantage: Social inclusion and wellbeing by reaching out to those most in need.

Beyond Borders: Development and capacity building beyond our national boundaries.

Beyond Differences: Social cohesion and participation enriched by inter-faith and inter-cultural understandings.

ACU-wide Community Engagement

Clemente Australia

- Providing opportunities for disadvantaged Australians to participate in Tertiary education as a means of re-engaging with and participating in society

Offered in conjunction with other community agencies, in 'safe spaces' that also offer other services (eg health or legal referrals)

ACU-wide Community Engagement

Homework Support, Atherton Gardens, Fitzroy

- State winner of the 2010 Victorian School's First Award
- *Outcomes:* Improved literacy and numeracy skills for refugee and other disadvantaged children; building community by including parents, schools and agency.

ACU-wide Community Engagement

Capacity building in Timor Leste

- Engaging communities in education, health and wellbeing initiatives and cross-university collaboration
  - Faculty of **Education** – educating Primary School teachers
  - School of **Exercise Science** – engaging youth through sport
  - School of **Nursing** – Health Clinic, Barefoot Nurses, Paramedics training

Outcomes: Rebuilding a nation, community by community

ACU-wide Community Engagement

University for Refugees – Thai-Burma border

- Winner 2010 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Community Engagement
- Locations: Ranong and Mae Sot, Thailand
- In collaboration with a number of US Catholic Universities

Outcomes: Developing tomorrow's leaders from their own people

Are skills and an engaged curriculum for critical thinking where the leading edge of change lies?

- There is a challenge of a one-dimensional system in a multi-dimensional world

- We need an engaged education of the heart, the head and the hand

- We need a curriculum which is 'cultural' (addresses current challenges and issues) and is 'environmental' (makes the world a better place and is not just about making money)

- LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS - Griffith/Commonwealth Games
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJuNH1f7f9M

- There is the question of critical thinking in the digital age which is upon us