

ADULT FAITH EDUCATION AND FORMATION

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The ministry of Adult Faith Education and Formation in partnership with parishes and with other faith communities provides opportunities for all adult Catholics to develop their understanding of their baptism.

2. DESCRIPTION

The Ministry for Adult Faith Education and Formation has its origins in the *Charter for Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton* which was promulgated in 2000. This Charter was reviewed in 2015 and approved by Bishop Michael McCarthy, Bishop of Rockhampton.

The Charter which defines Catholic Education as being from birth to death, refers to three key areas of responsibility: Adult Education and Faith Formation, Religion Instruction in State Schools, and Catholic Schools and Colleges. The Charter's purpose is to continue to develop a common sense of purpose for Catholic Education throughout the Diocese of Rockhampton. The Charter's vision is to provide in partnership with families, parishes and other diocesan agencies education and faith formation from birth to death.

The ministry of Adult Faith Education and Formation works in partnership with parishes and other faith communities to discern needs and set appropriate goals for their communities. Through local initiatives and travelling visitors Adult Faith Education and Formation will be available in all parts of the Diocese of Rockhampton.

This policy articulates the vision of the *Charter for Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton*.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Faithful to the traditions of the Church, Adult Faith Education and Formation uses adult learning styles to make connections between faith and the experiences of daily life.
2. The ministry aims to connect with the particular circumstances of each parish, city, rural, remote or country town and to respond to the needs of the Catholic people in that environment.
3. Where appropriate, Adult Faith Education and Formation will function ecumenically to enrich Christian communities as a whole.
4. Adult Faith Education and Formation addresses the need for leadership training as lay people take up ministry roles in their local communities.
5. A Diocesan Coordinator: Faith Education and Formation is appointed by the Bishop.



6. Each parish will have a contact person for Adult Faith Education and Formation. Coordinators in each district support and nurture a Diocesan-wide network dedicated to this inclusive ministry of Catholic Education. The District Coordinators are supported by the Diocesan Coordinator: Adult Faith Education and Formation.

4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Rockhampton Diocesan *Vision Statement*
- Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton (2006) [*Charter for Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton*](#) (endorsed by Bishop Michael McCarthy 2015)

RESOURCES

- Craig, Yvonne (1994) *Learning for life: A handbook of adult religious education* London: Mowbray
- Rademacher, William J. (1997) *Lay Ministry: A theological, spiritual, and pastoral handbook* New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company
- Sofield, Loughlan & Juliano Carroll (2000) *Collaboration: Uniting our gifts in ministry. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press*