

THE  
 **wesleyan** METHODIST CHURCH

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19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write in regard to the recent decision to cut courses in the Christian Ministry and Theology training package from access to the VET Student Loan scheme.

As National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia I have oversight of our ministerial training program through Kingsley College. As a denomination, we have chosen to utilize the benefits of Vocational training to prepare our ministerial candidates for ordination and a lifetime of leadership in the church and their community.

Our training College partners with a Registered Training Organisation to offer the programs required for ministry training, namely;

10434NAT Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology

10435NAT Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology

10436NAT Graduate Certificate in Christian Ministry & Theology

We chose to pursue training through the Vocational stream because of the conscious balance between knowledge and skill. We want our leaders to be practitioners- to have a firm understanding of their role and responsibilities, and also have the skills required to pastorally care and minister effectively. We concluded that these Vocational awards would provide just that mix of knowledge and skills.

Graduates from Kingsley College with an award in Christian Ministry and Theology will enter (or continue) their ministry to the community and local churches as pastors, chaplains, youth, children or senior's workers, missionaries, or other avenues of leadership with the church and community. Having access to a VET loan scheme has been assisting quite a few of our key leaders to gain the training they need for employment in their chosen industry. Removing access to a student loan scheme will hinder the progress of many key men and women from the training and then subsequent employment they are currently seeking.

The beneficiaries of our qualified Wesleyan Methodist ministers are the local communities and churches. Through services to teens, children, the elderly and marginalized many of our leaders

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seeking training through these Vocational awards make a great impact for good in their part of the world.

Thank you for considering the inclusion of the above courses in Christian Ministry and Theology in the VET Student Loans Eligible courses list.

Yours sincerely,



Rev Rex E. Rigby.

National Superintendent – Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia