

Inter-church Tertiary Chaplaincy Council

Report to the Anglican General Synod

March 2023

The ITCC is a national body comprising the interdenominational Christian tertiary chaplaincy boards, which provide chaplaincy for all the universities and all the polytechnic regions except the West Coast, Nelson-Marlborough and the Bay of Plenty. The Council met last in November 2023, at Ramsay House, Wellington.

The situation in many tertiary institutions is very concerning. Almost all the universities are facing large losses, due to the loss of overseas students during the pandemic. Several of the universities are making significant numbers of staff redundant. The merger of the Polytechnics into Te Pūkenga has been stopped by the incoming government, but it is not at all clear how institutions can revert to their former status and structure, given that their council were dissolved in 2022, and many courses have been dropped and staff made redundant.

Thus a major priority of the chaplains at the moment is supporting their current chaplains, and the hope we had that anomalies in support for the chaplains which has affected their operation differently on different campuses, will not be resolved, and our major concern is that some of the existing institutional support for chaplains may be lost. Happily so far the situation has not worsened but several of our institutions face significant financial pressures due to the reduction in support from some denominations and increasing costs. We are particularly concerned with the situation in Southland, the Taranaki, the Waikato (both the University and the Polytechnic) and the eastern Institute of Technology. We have some funds to meet any particular local crisis, but have insufficient resources to address widespread shortfalls.

The Tertiary Chaplains' body is now organised on an inter-faith basis, but our body, which draws its support from churches, provides significant support for it, and appreciates that we need to be careful to ensure that this does not undermine the acceptance of chaplains. We are working with the Chaplains association on adjusting the proposed accreditation system for chaplains.

We are very grateful for the modest grant received again from the Anglican General Synod, and can assure you that this is put to good use in our work in ensuring that chaplains are supported and trained for their demanding positions. We are considering developing a tertiary chaplaincy focus for one week in the year, in the hope that this will strengthen awareness of the chaplains' ministry.

Terry Wall Chair of the ITCC

Peter Lineham. Secretary of the ITCC