

## Applying for Accreditation

The Baptist Churches of NSW and the ACT act together in accrediting people for pastoral and related ministries within or on behalf of these churches. Local churches then ordain those who have been approved for accreditation.<sup>1</sup>

Morling students are entitled to **apply to become candidates for accreditation after having completed the equivalent of one year of full-time study**. The initial approach should be made to the Director of Ministry Support and Development (MSD), Ken Clendinning, whose contact details are available from the Baptist Ministry Centre (02 9868 9230). If a student is uncertain as to whether to apply, advice can be sought from a member of faculty, especially the Director of Field Education.

When such an initial approach is made, a **preliminary interview** takes place with the Director of MSD, at which application papers are also provided. **Written applications** must be submitted before 30 June in any year in order for the application to be processed during that year. Applicants go before the Committee for the Ministry for a **lengthy interview process** (in four small groups, which focus on different areas, then before the full committee). They are also required to undertake a **medical examination** and a **psychological assessment**.

**The result of this interview process** may be unconditional acceptance, conditional acceptance or being declined. **If accepted**, the candidate is normally on probation during the following year, after which a brief interview takes place. If this interview is satisfactory, the candidate comes off probation and proceeds to a final interview, which takes place in the February after all training has been completed and any other requirements met. If this final interview is successful, a recommendation for accreditation is normally made to the April Assembly of the Baptist Churches of NSW and the ACT. Once approved, candidates can then arrange for their ordination service to take place in their local church before the Baptist Churches Annual Convention (usually in July/August/September) when an Accreditation Service then takes place.

**If an applicant is declined** at the first interview, he or she is given reasons for this decision at a meeting with representatives of the Committee for the Ministry. After one year has elapsed, a fresh application can be made.

If Morling students want more detailed information concerning this process the full Guidelines and Regulations can be found on the Baptist Union website at [http://baptistnsw.asn.au/committee\\_for\\_the\\_ministry\\_/accreditation\\_guidelines.pdf](http://baptistnsw.asn.au/committee_for_the_ministry_/accreditation_guidelines.pdf). For more detail concerning the choice of appropriate subjects for preparation for accreditation see the Morling College Planning Guide and especially pages 42 & 43 at [http://www.morling.nsw.edu.au/morling\\_college/current\\_students/policies/resources/Planning%20Guide%202009.pdf](http://www.morling.nsw.edu.au/morling_college/current_students/policies/resources/Planning%20Guide%202009.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> What is the difference between accreditation & ordination? 'Accreditation' involves the certification of people as suitable for ministry within the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT. It recognizes they have met certain requirements and they have the appropriate qualifications and credentials for such ministry. 'Ordination' involves the setting apart of (accredited) people for ministry by the local church.