



# The Australian College of Theology

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## PROPOSAL FOR MTH OR THD THESIS

Course: **MTH**

**THD**

**First Draft**

(please date)

**Revised Draft**

(please date)

<b>Name of Student</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
Street	
Suburb	
State/Postcode	
Country	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
AreaCode/Phone	
Area Code/Fax	
Email	
<b>Proposed Principal Supervisor</b>	(if not ACT faculty please attach curriculum vitae)
<b>Address</b>	
Street	
Suburb	
State/Postcode	
Country	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Area Code/Phone	
Area Code/Fax	
Email	

The principal supervisor must be research active. At least one of the following must be satisfied. Please indicate how this has been done:

1. Have at least one HERDC recognised publication in the previous three years; or  
 .....
2. Received at least one external grant from a competitive grants scheme or industry in that period; or  
 .....
3. Supervised to successful completion an HDR candidate in the least three years or is currently supervising an HDR candidate.  
 .....

## BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE THESIS

Every research proposal must demonstrate that the research is justifiable in terms of its potential contribution to knowledge and is based on a thorough study of current literature as well as prior observation and approved previous studies. All research proposals must be designed so as to ensure that no harm is caused to participants and that any risks are balanced by the likely benefit to be gained.

Candidates should also consult the current *ACT Postgraduate Handbook*.

### 1. Working Title

### 2. Proposed word length

### 3. Give a succinct description in plain language of the research question, the background and potential significance of the proposed thesis.

(250 words. Attach a separate reference list if relevant.)

This research question addressed by the thesis is.....

**On A4 paper with 1.5 spacing, font size 12, please use the following headings to elaborate on your Proposal.**

4 a **Introduction** – ½ page.

Explain your interest in the topic.

4 b **Clearly state the overall aim of the thesis** - up to 4 pages.

Include a general overview responding to questions such as (but not limited to):

What is the history of scholarship in the topic?

What are the issues involved?

What are the problems that need to be addressed?

Why do these problems need to be researched?

4 c **Focus of the thesis** – up to 4 pages

Clearly list the questions/hypotheses/objectives of the thesis, responding to such questions as (but not being limited to):

What is the exact purpose of the thesis?

What are the boundaries within which you propose to investigate the topic?

How is the present study both necessary and innovative and how it will contribute to the issues raised in the general overview?

What theological/ministerial resources will be brought to bear on the issue?

Are there any languages other than English in which you need a facility?

Are there any particular skills that you need to be experienced in to undertake this research?

**METHODOLOGY** - up to 4 pages

5 a Clearly outline the procedural steps to be followed. Please be specific about your research methodology and include a detailed timeline for recruitment, data collection, analysis procedures, and preparation and submission of the report.

5 b Are you intending to undertake human subject research?

If so, you will need to complete the separate Ethics Protocol Form and submit it to the ACT Ethics Committee for approval.

5 c Collection of data – materials and procedures.

How, where and by whom is the data to be collected? Researchers should briefly outline all research/control procedures to be used with each category of participants (e.g. questionnaires, interviews, video and taped interviews, phone interviews, observation).

*Copies of questionnaires, interview questions etc. are to be attached.*

(NB: Data includes all information gathered from interviews, questionnaires, personal correspondence etc that is not on the public record.)

6 **Timetable and draft Chapter Outline** - 1-2 pages.  
(It is recognised that these may change.)

7 **Representative Bibliography and other resources.**

List your resources. Limit your written resources to the 15 most important ones. Put an asterisk (\*) beside those you have already examined in depth and indicate in parentheses after each resource where it is accessible to you.

8 **Supervisor's comment** – No more than 1 page.

Include, on a separate page, your supervisor's comment on the viability and benefits of the thesis. With respect to the ACT's confirmation of candidature policy, the supervisor should also list the dates of forthcoming colloquia to be attended by the candidate, and the date of his or her presentation.

**Signature of Researcher**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print SURNAME in capitals)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Supervisor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print SURNAME in capitals)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**College endorsement:**

I confirm that this proposal has received the endorsement of the college's Postgraduate Studies Committee (or its representative) to be presented to the Research Awards Board of the ACT:

**Signature of Postgraduate Coordinator:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print SURNAME in capitals)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_