



## **Accreditation by SQA – A Celebration of Milestone for Malua Theological College and Malua Bible School**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Congregational Christian Church of Samoa Malua Committee was elated and grateful when they received accreditation status granted by the Samoa Qualifications Authority of its two programmes offered by the two providers of Malua Theological College and Malua Bible School. The two (2) accredited programmes included the first higher education degree programme of ***Malua Theological College Bachelor of Divinity with Honours*** and ***Malua Bible School Certificate IV in Theological Studies***. The programmes have not only received accreditation but subsequently been officially registered on the Samoa Qualifications Framework. Again making Malua Theological College Bachelor of Divinity with Honours the first higher education qualification ***registered on Level VIII of the Samoa Qualifications Framework***.

*‘Receiving Accreditation is a significant achievement, one that recognizes outstanding performance demonstrated through meeting the Quality Standards and Requirements set for Post School Education and Training in Samoa’* says Mata’u Molia Taioalo, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Qualifications Authority. *“Accreditation is a rigorous process but one that providers welcome as a continual quality improvement mechanism. Earning SQA Accreditation is a measure of outstanding performance and excellence in the provision of provider’s contribution to quality education as well as to the SQA a commitment to our citizens”*. The two providers are commended for the much efforts and commitment to providing quality education in Theological and Biblical studies. It is indeed a milestone for SQA itself having Malua Theological Bachelor of Divinity with Honours degree accredited and registered on the SQF in the implementation of the SQA Quality Assurance System.

*“We are extremely pleased to have achieved this milestone” a general feeling by the Malua Committee at its meeting.*

The Samoa Qualifications Authority has been implementing its Quality Assurance processes for Post School Education and Training in Samoa since its establishment by Government to coordinate, regulate quality standards and qualifications in Samoa. It has not been an easy journey working with PSET providers towards meeting the Quality Standards. Programme Accreditation is one of the processes in which most of the programmes that have been accredited have been Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The next lot of programmes that SQA will now focus on are those of Higher Education.

PSET in Samoa is comprised of University Education, Theological, TVET, Biblical and Religious Instructions, On the Job, Apprenticeship and Non Formal Learning. In other words it is of most significance that the quality of any structured mode of delivery outside of the Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Schools is closely assessed and evaluated against Quality Standards in

place to ensure relevancy and quality. It is therefore important for providers to have accreditation by SQA as the National Quality Assurance body. Facilitation of international recognition of these nationally accredited will be made easier as the next step.

“Programme Accreditation is the process used to evaluate an organisation’s capability of delivering an education or training programme to the required standards. In addition it is an evaluation of how general capabilities of the organisation are being (or will be) used to provide focused support to a particular programme so that the participants and stakeholders can be assured that the programme is being (or will be) delivered effectively, efficiently and to the required standard and level. It involves site visits to the organisation”

Programme Accreditation is conducted by delegated Panel members with the expertise and technical knowledge and skills of the field/areas being assessed. The Panel for Malua Theological College included expertise from Australia, Fiji and representatives from Higher Education in Samoa.

SQA congratulates the Committee for Malua, Principal, Academic Dean, Lecturers and students of both Malua Theological College and Malua Bible School. As it took almost two years to work on Accreditation it is one of the big achievements that is worthwhile noted and celebrated.



SQA Management with EFKS Elders