



St Margaret's COLLEGE

with a view to the future

Introducing St Margaret's College

An exciting innovation in tertiary education for young women will open its doors next year.

St Margaret's College is a 25 bed residential facility which will accommodate undergraduate and postgraduate female students pursuing tertiary studies in Brisbane. The College is owned and operated by St Margaret's Anglican Girls School and set in a quiet garden enclave adjacent to the school grounds – formerly the residences of the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent (prior to them moving to Cairnmore in Petrie Street, about three years ago).

Principal of St Margaret's Ros Curtis said she believed this was a first for any Queensland, possibly Australian, school to venture into this tertiary space.

"We are very excited about developing the College into a first class residence for young women attending university in Brisbane.

"Not only will they enjoy what will be a beautiful boutique accommodation facility with arguably the best views in Brisbane, but, more importantly, the College's value-added program, which we are calling our Student Success Program, will enhance their tertiary journey through access to leadership learning programs for emerging talent, social responsibility programs, and development of employability skills.

"For girls with suitable skills, there will even be casual employment opportunities such as tutoring or coaching available through the School," Ms Curtis said.

St Margaret's College is open to all young women. They do not have to have attended St Margaret's School, although this will be seen as an attractive option for many St Margaret's former students.

"I definitely think that familiarity with your surroundings and location, and even living close to your established friendship groups, many of whom will reside in surrounding northside suburbs, will be an attractive option for our former boarders. Even our day students may decide to pursue the benefits that living and studying with like-minded students can offer as well as having the access to the Student Success Program and employment options," Ms Curtis said.

"Certainly, there are no restrictions on who can apply, but entry into the College will be via a comprehensive application process, including referees and an interview.

"We want to ensure that all college residents are responsible young women, really looking to benefit from all the College has to offer and with their sights set clearly on a successful future."

Overseeing the College will be newly appointed College Director Dr Kylie Armstrong. With a wealth of experience in both the secondary and tertiary education environments, Dr Armstrong joined the College in October.

Ms Curtis said it was a real coup to have Dr Armstrong at the helm of the College in its foundation year.

"Dr Armstrong not only has experience in education, but her extensive networks and links with academic institutions will support the development of industry mentoring, leadership and pathways to support the implementation of the Student Success Program," Ms Curtis said.

Applications for the College are now open and are available on the school website (www.stmargarets.qld.edu.au > Community > St Margaret's College). The College will launch its own dedicated website www.stmargaretscollege.com.au in the coming months.

**Any queries can be directed to:
College Director Dr Kylie Armstrong at
reception@stmargaretscollege.com.au
or telephone + 61 7 3862 0850**

**The College will have an Open Home on Tuesday
20 January from 12 noon – 6pm.**

Everyone is welcome.



www.facebook.com/stmargaretscollegebrisbane



Q and A with Dr Kylie Armstrong, College Director



Dr Kylie Armstrong has over 20 years of experience in the education and health sectors, including teaching, research, executive planning, policy creation and leadership development at both state and federal level.

When you read about St Margaret's College, what were your first thoughts?

Unique, innovative and bold – all sprang to mind! I was drawn to the forward thinking and progressive outward focused vision for the future of the College and could not resist the opportunity to be involved. I believe we can create a really dynamic living environment and a world class Student Success Program, which will nurture the potential of every scholar. It's an exciting phase in the evolution of St Margaret's, and the College absolutely aligns with the heritage, philosophy and vision of the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Advent as leading founders of women's education.

What did you think you could bring to this role?

Well I certainly hope my teaching experience and mentoring and supervising students in an academic setting will be of real value to the young women who come through the College. I am really looking forward to supporting and guiding the students as they make that transition from school to university life and beyond.

I have been involved in a number of exciting projects from conception which have

all required the ability to juggle multiple demands and deadlines. I know I can draw on this experience to ensure this ground-breaking project delivers for the girls everything we are hoping for, and more. The opportunities really are limitless and I think we can expand the College's horizons, to include things like partnerships with universities to ensure our students have access to the most brilliant minds in the field.

What are the biggest challenges facing young women today in terms of their futures?

Our fast changing global world and economy means that we are educating in an environment where the demand for jobs is also changing. This means we need to prepare our young women at school and at tertiary level to consider new and emerging workforce roles. We also need to strengthen women's leadership capacity to ensure highly qualified women can participate fully in the decision-making processes of society, through their roles in government, in the community and in the family.

While technology can have a tremendously positive impact on our lives, including offering greater opportunities for connecting with peers and building a sense of community, the rapidly changing new media landscape including reality TV, which continue to reinforce gender stereotypes, poses interpersonal challenges for young women.

This is one of the many reasons why we need to very actively build more opportunities for our young women to really find their own inner strength and unlock

their human potential. We also need to support young women to ensure they have a healthy balance and maintain a positive identity through engagement with technology, including social media.

How do you think St Margaret's College can help young women overcome these challenges?

I believe we are on the cusp of sweeping change and innovation in higher education globally and St Margaret's College has positioned itself to respond and lead the transformation. Our Student Success Program will prepare and equip our Collegians with the tools and strategies to respond to our changing world. We will also advise and provide links to academics to support students, including changes that may arise as they navigate through their journey at university.

The College will support students pastorally and also provide an academic tutor system to ensure the Collegians maintain a balance in their daily life and are prepared for the academic rigour of university.

Importantly, the College will provide a safe, happy and fun environment for young Collegians to enjoy, where respect and trust are the foundation for a quality living environment. This includes expanding opportunities for social activities and enjoying the company of family and friends in College life.

What will be the advantages of St Margaret's College over other tertiary accommodation facilities?

The College is a boutique facility so there will be a strong sense of community and belonging.

The accommodation offerings are outstanding and we believe superior in comparison to many other tertiary colleges. But it will be so much more than just a place to live, with the personalised pastoral care and support provided by myself and the Senior Residential Assistant.

While support will be a key feature, we also aim to empower the residents to play an active role in the daily life of the College, including ownership of the college activities and potential development of a Student Council. The foundation students, in particular, can have a powerful impact in their first years at the College and can help shape its future.

The Student Success Program is really unique to the College with students being able to participate in leadership development workshops and interact with leading industry mentors. Girls will also have the opportunity to be employed at St Margaret's School through activities such as sports coaching, academic tutoring, debating, and clerical work such as data entry.

Final word?

I believe the best direction to head in life is by allowing unlimited potential to flourish. Brilliance comes from taking risks, embedding a 'can do' culture, challenging the norm and unleashing untapped talent. St Margaret's College will position young women as critical and lateral thinkers, who are creative in their endeavours, who develop an inquisitive mind and who view our world from a different perspective and lens. This only comes from being in an environment where boundless opportunities exist.