

SELECTING A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MENTOR/COMPANION*

WHO CAN BE A PDP MENTOR/COMPANION?

There are no specific qualifications for those who serve as PDP Mentors/Companions.

Preferably, the PDP Mentor/Companion would be someone with whom the Accredited Pastor/Chaplain has a current relationship of trust. Consultation on the PDP then becomes an extension of that relationship.

- One's supervisor or spiritual director may be an ideal choice.
- Members of a peer support group or colleagues in ministry, not in the same pastoral/chaplaincy team, could serve as PDP Mentor/Companions for each other.
- A mature, respected and trusted member of the congregation, especially one with a relevant professional background, would be able to observe the Accredited Person in their ministry situation and offer valuable insights and feedback.

THE PRIMARY QUALITIES FOR A PDP MENTOR/COMPANION

Ideally a PDP Mentor/Companion would display the following qualities.

- A genuine commitment to the Accredited Pastor/Chaplain and to his or her personal and professional development.
- A willingness to speak honestly and ask the 'difficult' questions about performance, self care, etc.
- An understanding of the PDP process.
- An understanding of the principles of accountability.
- Preparedness to make a long-term commitment to the Accredited Pastor/Chaplain and to the PDP process.
- A deep personal faith and preparedness to regularly pray for the Accredited Pastor/Chaplain.
- An ability to preserve confidentiality.
- A strong commitment to the ministry – Church or Chaplaincy.

*Much of this material is drawn from the Baptist Union of Victoria
Professional Development Process Guidelines.