



Fact Sheet 2: What is the Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA)?

Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA) is the peak professional body for **Faith Community Nurses** (FCNs) in Australia promoting and practising

- ♥ Faith in Action
- ♥ Hope in Expression
- ♥ Love in Motion

...through Faith Community Nursing.

Our mission and vision

AFCNA educates, develop, promote and support FCNs participating in the pastoral Health and Care Ministries (HCM) of Australia's Christian faith communities.

We will continue to be the lead professional association in Australia to inspire, progress and promote the FCN role and HCM in this country and beyond.

We want to see pastoral health and care ministry within faith communities grow locally and internationally, to effect God's plan of justice, compassion, hope, healing, transformation, health and salvation.

To achieve that vision and purpose the Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA) provides:

- education, resources, professional standards and networking opportunities to support and equip FCNs for Christian pastoral health and care ministries;
- information, resources and education to Christian faith communities to enable them to commence nurture and sustain viable health and care ministries;
- promotion and publicity of the FCN role in the broader community;
- liaison with government, other entities, and professional organisations locally, nationally and internationally on behalf of AFCNA members to further AFCNA's purposes.



The logo

The extended open hand symbolises the FCN

being 'faith in action' and 'hope in expression' - providing support, guidance, nurture, care and compassion, which is afforded to all people within and beyond the faith community; seeking to promote health and wellbeing, and empower the person in the process of being and becoming all God intended them to be.

The unfolding flower symbolises the FCN as 'love in motion', providing the freedom for people to live an abundant life. Each person within the faith community is unfolding their God given potential, and journeying toward wholeness in and through Jesus Christ. The FCN is connected to, and in relation with the faith community, which is central to her/his nursing and/or health care.

The descending dove symbolises the Holy Spirit

The flower may also be interpreted as a descending dove symbolising the Holy Spirit's empowerment of the FCN enabling her/him to react and respond to others with the love of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is central to the FCN's life and professional practice and the faith community's growth and vitality.



The outer circle represents God in whom we find our identity and our belonging. **The shaded inner circle represents Jesus Christ** who fills our lives with love and peace, joy and hope, who enables us to live abundantly - here and now, and in eternity when we die.

Membership

Membership is open to nurses and other people interested in health and care ministry. Pastors, priests, pastoral care workers, and other health professionals are welcome to join us.

AFCNA members are provided with:

- annual courses and/or conference opportunities
- consultancy re professional practice issues
- resources to fulfil the FCN role
- peer networking





- research consultation
- publicity brochures
- newsletters with health promotion information, 3 per year
- practice standards (under review)
- continuing education and professional development via online portal
- a resource manual (under review)

Benefits of AFCNA membership for nurses

By joining AFCNA as a nurse you:

- gain access to a network of Christian nurses with mutual professional and faith interests
- are eligible to receive mentoring in the FCN role from an experienced FCN
- have a voice in the vision and direction of AFCNA and as AFCNA is a member of the Council of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO) in Australia, via CoNNMO you have a voice on health care direction in Australia
- demonstrate your commitment to your profession
- have access to quality opportunities to keep up to date in the specialty of faith community nursing at reduced prices to meet AHPRA and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) hours directly relevant to your context of practice

To join us

By supporting AFCNA through a subscription you are granted access to all of our resources as well as discount offers for conferences, on-line education and other events.

Full membership is only \$30 AUD per year (\$20 concession and students) which is tax deductible for nurses. As a thank you for becoming a member you will receive an eBook **The Faith Community Nurse role is an important function of church ministry.**

You may choose to provide a thanksgiving gift. AFCNA is a registered charity that is entirely staffed by volunteers and our work is entirely funded from donations. Your gift enables us to grow and develop this ministry.

[Click here](#) to go to the subscription page for more information and to register at the bottom of the page. Your online payment is taken annually and securely through PayPal (no PayPal account is needed) and no payment details are kept by AFCNA. You will need to create a profile, which provides AFCNA with information about you that is kept on AFCNA's membership database. Your privacy is assured.