



Fact Sheet 1: Introduction to Faith Community Nursing

Faith Community Nursing is a form of community nursing founded upon Christian principles which seeks to support and strengthen the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

What is a Faith Community Nurse?

Faith Community Nurses (FCNs) provide whole person care of body, mind and spirit, focusing on promoting health and preventing illness, abuse or injury and managing existing conditions to maintain optimal health and wellbeing. FCNs are based in a faith community, a church, church-based school, aged care service or other community service conducted under the auspices of the church. FCNs serve the people within that faith community and/or people from the geographic or cultural community which that faith community serves.

What do they do?

They use their nursing knowledge and skills, underpinned and incorporated with their Christian faith to provide culturally competent, holistic health care to individuals, families and groups across the lifespan. FCNs work across the health continuum from health promotion and disease prevention to the management of chronic conditions and finally end of life care.

The **HEALTH** focus of the FCN includes:

- H** = health promotion
- E** = education and health counselling
- A** = advocacy
- L** = listening
- T** = training and coordination
- H** = hope and spiritual care

FCNs often work with, or manage a team of volunteers who are part of the church's health, community and pastoral care ministries.



Where do they work?

The usual place to find a Faith Community Nurse (FCN) is working within a church and the local community that church serves. The FCN may be employed as a volunteer, or funded by the local church, or a church denomination, or be salaried from another funding source.

FCNs can also be found serving in schools, aged care settings, medical practices, faith based hospitals community services and other care services run under the auspices of churches. They may have a particular focus for their ministry such as, working with people who are homeless, mental health, aged care, disability, addiction, vulnerable families, maternal/child welfare, or community health and development.

How do I become an FCN?

To practise as an FCN you need to hold a current professional registration or enrolment as a nurse with your local nurse registration authority www.ahpra.gov.au. You will also need some additional training in preparation for this specialist role and its autonomous nursing practice. You can get this training from AFCNA and a number of other education providers across Australia and internationally.

What is the role of the Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA)?

AFCNA offers a free foundational course to introduce you to the concept of Health and Care Ministry and more specifically the role of the Faith Community Nurse. AFCNA also provides more in-depth preparatory training for a small fee. See www.afcna.org.au for more details, or contact us on afcna@afcna.org.au and we will contact you to provide you with more information about the FCN role.

For more information visit www.afcna.org.au

Do you want to know more about, 'why the Faith Community Nurse role is an important function of the local church?' [Click here](#) for a FREE eBook which answers the question.