

Faith Community Nursing FAQ



What is Faith Community Nursing?

Faith Community Nurses (FCNs) provide whole-person care that considers body, mind and spirit on behalf of a church/faith community. They add their nursing knowledge and skills to the health and pastoral care ministry of the Christian church to promote health and wellbeing in the people they serve.

What does a Faith Community Nurse (FCN) do?

FCNs provide people with direct access to confidential, personal and professional health counselling and education tailored to their needs. FCNs spend time with people to listen, pray and provide a hopeful and compassionate presence. They can help people navigate health and community care systems, advocating for them when required, locating resources, and referring people to appropriate services that support their care management.

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

- Health promotion
- Education and health counselling
- Advocacy and referral
- Listening and visiting
- Training and coordination
- Hope and spiritual care

To learn more about Faith Community Nursing [click here](http://www.afcna.org.au)

What won't an FCN do?

FCNs don't provide direct care such as personal hygiene activities, invasive procedures, dressings, medication administration, medical treatments, or manual handling support.

Are FCNs salaried or volunteer faith community employees?

Globally FCNs are salaried by bequests, grants, donations, private benefactors and church fund raising efforts. This assists in the recruitment and retention of quality professional Christian nurses, and the sustainability of the FCN role. Churches can develop an FCN service across a region as a joint ecumenical offering, or via a regional parish cluster. At the very least volunteer FCNs should receive a consistent viable budget line to cover expenses.

Should the FCN attend the employing church?

There are advantages and disadvantages to this. If the FCN belongs to the church or denomination, they share similar theological perspectives with people in the faith community facilitating trust and ongoing relationship. However, it can become difficult for the FCN to worship without experiencing

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the need to check in on specific people. Additionally, some people don't like approaching the FCN due to concerns about privacy. These issues are managed by reassuring people that privacy and confidentiality, role expectations and boundaries are adhered to. The choice usually favours an FCN being a committed part of their faith community.



Does an FCN need insurance?

Yes. Your faith community must hold Public Liability Insurance and inform your insurer about the FCN ministry and its planned activities. All regulated health practitioners in Australia (including FCNs) must hold Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance. Your church or denomination's insurance may cover you, but you must check and have your PI cover documented in writing.

Who manages the FCN service?

The employing faith community is responsible for the management and delivery of the FCN service. The church should provide the FCN with spiritual support and mentoring to develop resilience for their role. AFCNA recommends the FCN has professional mentoring from another Registered Nurse of their choosing who is in good standing with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA).

How can AFCNA help?

Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA) provides information, education and resources for faith communities and for FCNs to help churches create a tailored approach to meet needs within their church and the community.

Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA) provides:

- **FREE** information via a '*Introducing Faith Community Nursing*' booklet
- **FREE** presentation about Faith Community Nursing to your local faith community from an AFCNA representative in person, or via video link
- **FREE** '*Introducing Faith Community Nursing*' workshop/online course
- '*Foundations of Faith Community Nursing*' course - international curriculum -cheaper for members
- Resources and education for Faith Community Nurses to support their practice including samples of editable documentation
- Ongoing support via our national FCN mentor
- Ongoing professional development for pastoral care workers and FCNs, face to face and via AFCNA's online education hub
- AFCNA membership includes e-news updates, *Whole Health* magazine, discounts on training, and support via mentoring and networking

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[Click here](#) to join AFCNA

For more information and to get your '*Introducing Faith Community Nursing*' booklet email afcna@outlook.com and providing your name, church, contact details and phone numbers, and we will be in touch.

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