

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 together.

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, advocate for them when required, locate resources, and refer 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. If the FCN belongs to the church, they share similar theological perspectives with people in the faith community which facilitates trust and ongoing relationship. However, it can become difficult for the FCN to worship without experiencing the need to check in on specific people. Additionally, some people don't like approaching the FCN due to privacy concerns. These issues are managed by reassuring people that privacy and confidentiality, role expectations and boundaries are always adhered to. The choice usually favours an FCN being a committed part of their faith community.

www.afcna.org.au

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 also hold Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance. Your church or denomination's insurance may cover the FCN, but you must check the PI cover is sufficient to meet Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) standards and get this cover documented in writing.



Who manages the FCN service?

The employing faith community is responsible for the management and delivery of the FCN service. They should provide the FCN with spiritual support and mentoring to develop ministry resilience. AFCNA recommends the FCN also has professional mentoring from another Registered Nurse of their choosing who is in good standing with AHPRA and Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

How can AFCNA help?

Australian Faith Community Nurses Association (AFCNA) provides information, education and resources for faith communities and FCNs to help them create a tailored approach that promotes health and meets the needs within your church and your community.

AFCNA provides your FCN and your faith community with:

- **FREE** information via an *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](#) a brief workshop via our online education hub or face to face
- [Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course](#) – is an internationally recognised curriculum (2019 version) - fee \$300 AFCNA members, or \$400 for non-members
- Resources and education for FCNs to support their practice. This includes editable documentation for professional practice
- Ongoing support via our national FCN mentor
- Ongoing professional development for pastoral care workers and FCNs via face to face workshops or AFCNA's online education hub
- AFCNA membership includes e-news updates, resources, *Whole Health* magazine, discounts on training, professional mentoring and peer support

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