

Steps to start Faith Community Nursing



Do you want to start an FCN ministry in your local church?
AFCNA can help you.

The Australian Faith Community Nursing Association ([AFCNA](http://www.afcna.org.au)) is a non-denominational Christian charity facilitating faith community nursing in Australia. As a professional nursing organisation it prepares and supports Faith Community Nurses. It also supports churches to promote whole health and give compassionate care by providing information, education and resources. Much of this is provided free or produced for a small co-contribution. Visit www.afcna.org.au

AFCNA annual membership is encouraged and donations to support this ministry are greatly appreciated. Details on the AFCNA website <https://afcna.org.au/donate/>

Step 1. I'm interested - learn and pray



1. Learn and pray

Check the AFCNA website for a fact sheet '[Theological rationale for health ministry via a faith community nurse](#)' to understand how Faith Community Nursing (FCN) fits the ministry and mission of the local church. Read the FREE '[Introduction to Faith Community Nursing](#)' booklet in the '[Introductory Pack](#)' to increase your understanding of the FCN role and gain an overview of practicalities to consider before commencing FCN ministry. Prayerfully consider the contents.



2. Plant the seed by sharing the vision

Step 2. Share your vision

After you have read and considered the introductory information share the vision of the possibilities an FCN ministry offer with others in your faith community. Use the '[Introductory Pack](#)' information and the [AFCNA website](http://www.afcna.org.au) to help you. You can request a FREE church visit (in person or via video link) from an AFCNA representative who will provide a presentation for your faith community.

www.afcna.org.au

Step 3. Planning your next steps – nurture growth



3. Nurture growth of ministry opportunities

When you are ready to move forward and have approval from your faith community leadership, you should reflect on the focus of your FCN ministry and plan for commencement. Consider how to recruit your FCN, set up the FCN ministry so it meets legal and professional requirements, fund the FCN ministry, and support the FCN. This may sound daunting, but your denomination may have tools to assist. AFCNA can help your faith community with a [Planning Pack](#) of information that includes a '**Planning Faith Community Nursing**' booklet and fact sheets that step you through what need to do, along with editable documentation templates to assist. The *Planning Pack* can be purchased from AFCNA for a small co-contribution of \$50 (non- members \$100). [NB. This pack is supplied FREE to FCNs when they undertake AFCNA's '*Foundation of Faith Community Nursing* 'course.]

Step 4. Appointing your FCN



4. Appoint and encourage your FCN

Once you have established what your FCN service will focus upon, it's time to recruit and select your nurse. Check what assistance your denomination can provide with this process. AFCNA's *Planning Pack* contains a folder with lots of **Recruitment tools and templates** such as editable sample position descriptions, applicant screening, FCN selection, and the many administrative tasks faith community's need to undertake in the recruiting and appointing process. You can see the *Planning Pack* contents [here](#).



www.afcna.org.au

Step 5. Preparing your FCN



5a. Prepare your FCN with a biblical foundation

\$300 for AFCNA members (\$400 non-members) and provides quality teaching, handouts, assessment, plus a USB with the [AFCNA Introductory, Planning and Documentation Packs](#) with more than 50 editable documents/templates and materials to support quality, legal and accountable FCN ministry. [The *Documentation Pack* can be purchased separately for \$75 for AFCNA members (non- members \$100)].



5b. Uphold your FCN ministry with prayer

afcna@outlook.com to discuss your needs and we will seek to support them wherever possible. Your co-investment for this support will be negotiated on an individual basis.

Once your FCN is recruited, they should undertake the [Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course](#), if they have not already done so. This internationally recognised course enables the FCN to be prepared theologically and professionally for this advanced nursing role. The course can be completed on-line with intakes advertised on the website. Register your interest on the [AFCNA website](#)

Your investment for the AFCNA *Foundations of Faith Community Nursing* course is only

AFCNA can run a residential school to undertake the *Foundations of FCN* course in your faith community, providing there are sufficient participants. AFCNA has conducted courses for aged care providers, community service providers, denominational networks, Christian schools, and individual/regional faith communities across Australia. We shape content to suit your needs. AFCNA's educators are qualified and experienced at higher education level and our courses receive consistent positive feedback. Email us at



www.afcna.org.au

NB. AFCNA welcomes faith community members to undertake the *Foundations of FCN* course. You do not need church support to do the course, nor do you need to be a nurse to benefit from the course content. Some nurses undertake the course in anticipation of a future FCN role, while others do it as preparation for pastoral care roles. Others do the course for personal growth or professional development. You are all welcome!



Step 6. Supporting your FCN



6. Ensure your FCN gets mentoring and support to sustain their ministry

FCNs work autonomously, but they benefit from networking with others in the church and with other FCNs for support via *mentoring*, encouragement, a community of practice, prayer and debrief. Nurses are legally required to complete annual *professional development*.

Your church/denomination can provide your FCN with prayer, encouragement and spiritual development to sustain them. You can also provide your FCN with annual AFCNA membership so they can join a community of

practice that includes connection with the international FCN knowledge sharing platform at the Westberg Institute. AFCNA membership provides your FCN with:

- support via mentoring using phone, video-link, or in person
- access to 'Members' section of AFCNA's website with resources, teaching material, editable document templates the FCN can use in their FCN ministry
- free and discounted access to online and face-to-face professional development on topics such as: spiritual care, loss & grief, chronic conditions, mental health, navigating aged care, boundaries and limits, supporting the dying, FCN self-care, healing versus curing, etc.

www.afcna.org.au

[Click here to join AFCNA](#) © AFCNA 2020

Remember AFCNA is here to help.

For more information send your enquiry to afcna@outlook.com along with your name, church, contact details and phone numbers, and we will be in touch.