

# Pastoral Care (PC207)

Australian College of Theology name: *Pastoral Care*

## Unit Description

Sharpen your pastoral skills with this introductory unit on the theology and nature of pastoral care. Investigate the biblical basis of caring, and examine issues and skills such as listening, dealing with difficult relationships, encouragement, grief, identity and practical ways of caring for yourself and others. Be helped to become a more effective member of your church and your ministry to others will never be the same again.

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## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will:

### A. *Know and understand:*

1. Biblical and theological perspectives on pastoral care
2. The dimensions of pastoral care
3. The skills of pastoral care

### B. *Be able to:*

1. Outline biblical and theological perspectives on pastoral care
2. Recognise pastoral care opportunities in community contexts
3. Identify pastoral care opportunities and approaches in particular situations
4. Under supervision, apply essential skills in pastoral care

### C. *Be in a position to:*

1. Use 'Pastoral Care' for personal understanding and in ministry contexts

## Content

### *Section A: Biblical and Theological Perspectives*

1. Biblical and theological insights into the nature of individuals and groups; the human predicament; salvation and wholeness.
2. Biblical models of caring, including the "shepherding" model as seen in the ministry of Jesus.
3. The role of the church as a caring community, including the pastoral role of the congregation; the development of individual and corporate maturity; the relationship between clergy and laity in caring ministries.

### ***Section B: Pastoral Care in Relation to the Community***

4. Modern concepts of the person and their place in society.
5. The opportunities presented through the pastoral offices of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Visitation, and Preaching.
6. Caring in relation to marriage, singleness, divorce, separation, in the light of changing patterns of family life in contemporary society.

### ***Section C: Pastoral Care in Particular Situations***

7. Caring in areas of sexuality, including homosexuality and AIDS.
8. Pastoral care in times of sickness, stress and healing.
9. Pastoral care for the dying, in death and bereavement, including where suicide has occurred.
10. Alcoholism, drug dependence and associated problems.

### ***Section D: Developing Pastoral Care Skills***

11. Understanding other helping professions; guidelines in using insights from other social science disciplines; distinctions between pastoral care and counselling.
12. Relational skills, including listening, empathy, honesty, vulnerability, encouraging, teaching.
13. Coping with negativity and other issues to individual maturity, e.g. depression, anger, conflict, self esteem.
14. Caring for the carers: the need for and provision of pastoral care for pastors.

**Note:** Sections A, B, C and D are weighted approximately equally.