

# Pastoral Care (PC013-508)

**Australian College of Theology name:** *Foundations of Pastoral Care*

## Unit Description

Would you like to improve your skills to care for others pastorally? This unit on pastoral care will introduce you to the biblical basis of caring and how to care for people in different stages of life. You will also develop your skills in active listening, encouragement and dealing with conflict.

## Exclusions

Prior to 2020, this unit content was delivered under the unit code PC013-508 (formerly PC207).

Unit exclusions: PC077-512

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## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will:

### A. **Know and understand:**

Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of pastoral care, including the methods and standards of professional, safe and ethical practice

### B. **Be able to:**

1. Outline biblical and theological perspectives on pastoral care
2. Demonstrate skills in pastoral care
3. Present organised evidence-based perspectives on pastoral care

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

Relating perspectives and skills from this unit to contemporary Christian living and 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.