

## What is Clinical Pastoral Education?

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is an action-reflection process of education. It provides opportunities for supervised spiritual care encounters with people in a variety of circumstances. Through intense involvement with people and the feedback from peers, mentors, supervisors and the people to whom spiritual care practice is offered, CPE participants develop new awareness of their own humanity and the needs of those to whom they offer pastoral care. From theological reflection on specific human experiences, they gain new understanding of the human situation.

Participants within the health care setting of the hospital have the opportunity to work alongside members of the interdisciplinary health team. Within this team spiritual care has its own unique contribution. Through experiential learning focussed on the study of specific human experiences, CPE assists participants to acquire spiritual care skills and develop their own pastoral identity through integration of their theology, pastoral practice and personality.

### CPE Seeks to:

Attend to the human condition, particularly life's spiritual dimensions. CPE engages a reflection component which entails the exploration of the spiritual care practice experience, the dynamics present, and the theological and spiritual dimensions. This action reflection process is integral to the participants understanding and the formation of their personal, professional and pastoral identity and competence.

### CPE offers the participant an opportunity to:

- Reflect upon the influences and personal resources they bring to spiritual care practice and then develop an awareness of the impact of these influences and resources upon them and others
- Work towards greater integration of the participant's faith/spiritual practices, behaviour and emotional responses within a small group setting
- Develop professional skills such as interdisciplinary awareness, accountability, and competence.

### Program components

- Didactic (Formal teaching) seminars
- Peer group supervision
- Individual supervision
- Personal reflection and evaluation of the processes experienced through daily journals, pastoral intervention reviews and case studies using multi-modal forms
- Seminar presentations focused on personal and pastoral relationships and peer to peer relationships
- Education and exploration of theological/spiritual reflection
- Participation in rituals and leading of reflective sessions.

### Clinical practice

Each member of the course will offer spiritual care to a variety of general and specialist wards and units within the hospitals. In this environment, they will have the opportunity to experience the administrative, practice and professional identity of the spiritual carer. There may be an opportunity to be mentored by specialist spiritual carers.

There is also the opportunity for those engaged in community, health-care or parish ministry to use their current spiritual care placements to fulfil the clinical requirements. Those wishing to take this option are invited to negotiate this with the Course Co-ordinator and the Director.

### Program requirements

To gain credit for the unit each participant is required to engage in a minimum of 200 hours of actual spiritual care practice to people, 100 of these hours to be face to face clinical practice.

### Full time units

Participants are required to attend Monday to Friday for a period of 11 weeks.

### Part time units

Participants are required to attend on Tuesdays for education and a further 2 days per week to complete their clinical placement. The course runs for 18/19 weeks.

## Accreditation of CPE

Successful completion of the unit can be credited as a subject of a number of awards with teaching institutions associated with the University of Divinity, the Australian College of Theology, and other bodies. CPE participants seeking such credit should consult with the relevant teaching institution.

## Cost

Audit / Non Theological subject fee is \$2100

If this CPE course is for a College degree Credit with the University of Divinity, tuition fee as advised by the University of Divinity.

If this CPE course is part of a theological qualification through a higher education provider FEE-HELP may be available.

### Credit for University of Divinity Awards

Credit for CPE in any UD award **will only be granted** if the candidate has enrolled in the relevant Unit: DP8273S or Clinical Pastoral Education Level 1 or DP9273S or Clinical Pastoral Education Level 2.

Enrolment in these units is dependent on the candidate having:

1. completed the University of Divinity prerequisites
2. gained a letter of offer of a place from a registered CPE Centre.

Clarification of these requirements can be made through the Course Co-ordinator of the College in which you are enrolled or through contacting the University of Divinity's CPE Liaison officer, Allison Whitby [awhitby@divinity.edu.au](mailto:awhitby@divinity.edu.au)

## CPE Centre Director

Andrew Harper  
Clinical Pastoral Supervisor, ASACPEV

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Austin Health  
CPE Centre

**CLINICAL PASTORAL  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAMME**



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