

What is pastoral care and what does it offer to the patient in hospital?

Spending time in hospital – whether it be overnight or for a longer period of time – can be an overwhelming and worrying experience. Away from their usual environment, with lots of new information to absorb, many people find they need a little extra support during their hospital stay. Being hospitalised is also a time when people reflect on their lives.

A pastoral visit can be an opportunity for people to reflect on their experience and matters that may be worrying them. Talking through what they are feeling and experiencing with someone who will sit quietly and listen without judgement can help contribute to a sense of inner peace and calm.

Pastoral carers will offer prayer with patients where appropriate or requested.

Who can become a Catholic hospital pastoral carer?

To be eligible you must be:

- a baptised Catholic with the support of your parish priest and in good standing with your parish community
- over the age of 18 years
- able to meet Archdiocesan requirements for volunteers, including holding a current Blue Card and consenting to a criminal history check
- registered or willing to register as a volunteer with Centacare
- willing to undertake training for a qualification in providing pastoral and spiritual care.

It's more than care, it's a calling.

By supporting the aspirations and needs of people with all kinds of ability and vulnerability, Centacare brings the loving care the Gospel teaches into our communities every day. As a Catholic organisation, care is our calling.

aged care

community & pastoral care

disability care

early edcare

family & relationship care

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pastoral care

Become a hospital pastoral carer

Centacare's pastoral carers are on hand in most Brisbane hospitals as a supportive pastoral presence for people experiencing hospitalisation. They work as part of wider denominational pastoral care teams which are highly valued in both Queensland Health and private hospital facilities.



Are you suited to pastoral care?

Hospital pastoral carers need to be:

- well formed in the Catholic faith and preferably with some formal training in scripture and theology
- able to relate to people with care and sensitivity
- mature in outlook and aware of emotional and professional boundaries
- reliable and committed
- able to commit to weekly pastoral care visits
- genuinely caring, compassionate and non-judgemental
- able to work cooperatively in a team environment
- open to ministry in a multi-faith environment
- in good health and reasonably fit.

What training is provided?

You need to complete a 12 month training program to become accredited to provide pastoral care in a hospital setting. This training is provided through Centacare, in conjunction with the Institute of Faith Education. Pastoral carers are then supervised by the Catholic Team Coordinator for 100 hours of documented practical work. Centacare provides ongoing spiritual formation for pastoral carers.

Availability

Centacare pastoral carers are located in most Brisbane hospitals and visit wards on most week days. Patients can request a pastoral visit through the hospital's pastoral care office or their nurse unit manager.



Transport

Pastoral carers are responsible for their own transportation to and from the hospital. Free parking is available at hospitals. Travel costs can be negotiated for reimbursement by Centacare.

Health

Pastoral carers require good overall physical health including sound hearing and mobility. Pastoral carers also require excellent emotional, spiritual, and psychological health. Self-care and regular professional supervision is essential.

Spirituality and faith

Pastoral carers must be active members of their parish communities and in good standing. A reference from a parish priest is essential.

Team development

Pastoral carers operate at hospitals in a multi-denominational team. Attendance at monthly hospital team meetings is required as part of the commitment to becoming a pastoral carer. Catholic pastoral carers are also required to regularly attend gatherings offered by Centacare.

Where we visit

Our pastoral carers visit the following hospitals in the Brisbane Archdiocese:

Logan Hospital	Queensland Children's Hospital
Ipswich Hospital	Redcliffe Hospital
The Prince Charles Hospital	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Princess Alexandra Hospital	St Andrew's Hospital
Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital	The Wesley Hospital
Redland Hospital	Caboolture Hospital

My mum and I would like to extend our sincerest thanks for all your support through my sister's passing. You were an absolute godsend during our saddest time and gave mum the inner peace to accept and allow her to pass. Thank you for being the angels we needed. My sister would also have given you a huge hug and smile of thanks for your kindness. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

Excerpt of an email to a pastoral carer received from a patient's sister.