



Pastoral Care  
Research Collaboration

# Introduction to the PCRC network

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Director, CHaSR

# What the PCRC network is

- Team of researchers from across the Australian Catholic University – from different disciplines, schools, faculties, research institutes, and campuses
- Importantly, includes a number of external members from organisations that provide pastoral care
- Seeks to contribute to the body of evidence on the benefits of pastoral care to patients, staff and families

# Why the PCRC network evolved

- Changing Australian population and social systems
- Stronger social support, interpersonal relationships and connectedness to the community = greater physical and mental health
- Mounting scientific evidence of a positive association between religious involvement and health
- Relationship between religion and health is due to a complex mixture of health practices, social ties, the provision of systems of meaning, and feelings of strength to cope with stress and adversity

# Why the PCRC network evolved

“Pastoral / spiritual care is the only caring modality in which personal connection is the prime goal of interaction”

- *Pastoral Care ACT*

“Originally arising out of the Christian faith, the profession now needs to present itself in the clear terms of science and to define what exactly it is doing that is of benefit to patients, staff and families”

*Spiritual Health Victoria (2015)*

# ACU mission and values

This is a body of research that is ideally suited to the expertise and mission of the Australian Catholic University

“Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good”

*The ACU Mission*

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