



Diocese of Nelson

Parish Nursing Ministry Policy

Parish Nursing is relatively new to New Zealand but since its inception in USA it has followed a set of standards and protocols, which it is important to maintain. In this Diocese discussions should be held with the bishop's advisers for Parish Nursing and approval MUST be sought from the Bishop before a parish commences this ministry. After training the Parish Nurse will be commissioned by the Bishop and will form part of the licensed lay ministry of the Diocese.

Guidelines for the process of initiating this ministry are to be found in:

- "Thinking of starting a parish nurse ministry in your parish?" document (Nelson Diocese, March 2001) (2/4/1/1)
- "Faith Community Nursing A Resource Manual" AFCNA 1999, pp12-24; 26; 56-58. This covers the legal, ethical and other practical implications of this ministry.
- Faith Community Nursing: Video produced for AFCNA 1999

It is essential that the chosen nurse receive training in this speciality of nursing so that they have a true understanding of the nature of the work. Each Parish Nurse will then with their Parish determine the type of role which is relevant to their particular church and area.

Parish Nursing requires someone who:

- is a Registered nurse with a current practising certificate
- has a personal commitment to Christ and believes that this is part of God's call to them
- has the full support of their parish
- will form part of the parish's ministry team
- will be prepared to participate in ongoing training

Recommendation

It is strongly suggested that Diocesan grants and Anglican Care Charitable Trust Fund grants for parish nurse ministries are dependent upon the parish following these guidelines.

Prepared by Elaine F Tyrrell and Sheryn Carpenter-McClatchy after consultation with Bishop Derek Eaton and at the request of Standing Committee.