



Spiritual Care Australia

Professional development and supervision requirements of SCA members

As at 10 October 2020

Spiritual Care Australia (SCA) is the peak association of practitioners in spiritual and pastoral care and chaplaincy in Australia. It seeks to support and encourage the development of spiritual care for all people in Australia, acknowledging that both those offering spiritual care and those receiving it will come from a wide variety of worldviews and faith traditions.

To assure that spiritual care practitioners maintain current and safe professional practice, all practitioner levels of Spiritual Care Australia membership are required to undertake professional development and supervision each year.

Professional development includes formal and informal training and growth in the practice of spiritual care. It recognises that knowledge and practice are constantly developing and standards of competency are changing. Full-time attendance at the SCA Conference is designed to provide 20 hours of PD. Attendance at courses, seminars/webinars, and conferences all are examples of professional development. Other examples include workplace training (if related to professional practice), focussed reading of books, journal articles or participation in on-line forums. You should record your PD hours during the year.

Supervision is a developmental and educative process that is both supportive and challenging with the aim of the supervisee growing professionally and personally. Supervision helps practitioners develop expertise, gain confidence and be supported and assisted with their delivery of service to clients. A paper describing supervision can be found on the SCA website*. You should record your hours of supervision each year.

Hours of professional development required:

All practitioners should undertake at least 15 hours of professional development per year (as defined above). This is because even a person who works casually or only one day per week needs to be up to date and ready to meet any situation. However, those working more hours require more hours of PD, as below:

Practitioners at Member (waged and unwaged), Certified and Certified Advanced levels:

- **EFT .8 or more** – 25 hours per annum (full-time attendance at the SCA Conference provides 20 hours)
- **EFT .5-.7** – 15 hours per annum
- **EFT Less than .5** – 10 hours per annum

Associate Student Members – If working and studying at the same time, your hours of study or placement count toward your PD requirement. You may combine your study or placement hours with other PD if necessary to achieve the required PD hours for your EFT. If studying only (not practicing), the placement or study hours required for the course of study are sufficient.

Associate members – Practitioners should not be Associate members. But Associate members should read and think about spiritual care practice, education and/or administration. The SCA website and newsletter will provide useful links and resources.

Hours of supervision required:

Everyone in practice should receive supervision at least five times per year, as per the guidelines below. Importantly, an additional session should be sought whenever an issue arises that has caused distress or anxiety. Do not wait for a scheduled supervision in such circumstances – arrange a special session.

The hours listed below are the **required hours of individual supervision**; participation in each hour of group supervision meets the requirement for half an hour of individual supervision, e.g., four hours of group supervision equals two hours of supervision.

Practitioners at Member (waged and unwaged), Certified and Certified Advanced levels:

- **EFT .8 or more** – 10 hours per annum
- **EFT .5-.7** – at least 7 hours per annum
- **EFT Less than .5** – 5 hours per annum

Associate Student Members – If working and studying, five hours (as above); if studying only, no supervision is required.

Associate members – Practitioners should not be Associate members. Associate members do not require supervision unless they are mistakenly registered as Associate members whilst in practice. In that case, they should be guided by the practitioner levels above.

For Life Members and Retired Members

Life members and retired members who continue to practice are required to undertake the appropriate number of hours of professional development and supervision for their relevant level. Examples:

- A life member who is employed as a spiritual care practitioner four days per week is required to undertake 25 hours of PD and 10 hours of supervision per annum.
- A retired member who is working in a voluntary capacity one day per week is required to undertake 10 hours of PD and 5 hours of supervision per annum.
- A life member who is working solely in administration with no practice element should meet the requirements of an associate member.

Approved by the SCA Board, 10 October 2020

* SCA 'Supervision Guidelines' can be found at
<https://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/public/103/files/SCA%20Supervision%20Guidelines.pdf>