



CHOOSING A SUPERVISOR

In preparation for finding a supervisor, if you have not already done so, we strongly encourage you to read the Professional Supervision section in the [National Policy and Guidelines for Ongoing Professional Development, Professional Supervision and Ministry Reviews](#) document.

In the section on Professional Development there is succinct and comprehensive information about the national Anglican church policy, including required hours, a description of professional supervision, guidelines and benefits and who is suitable as a professional supervisor. We encourage you to read this section, starting at p 23, carefully.

To help you choose a suitable supervisor who is able to be approved here is the relevant part in the section.

A person suitable to be a professional supervisor will:

- *have successfully completed:*
 - *Graduate Certificate or Diploma in Professional Supervision from St Mark's National Theological Centre; University of Divinity; Stirling Theological College etc; or*
 - *other formal accredited training in Professional Supervision such as two subjects in Professional Supervision from School of Theology Charles Sturt University, Moore Theological College, Australian College of Theology; or*
 - *an equivalent qualification*

or be recognised as:

- *a CPE Acting Level 1 Supervisor or higher; or*
- *an accredited supervisor with a relevant professional association e.g. AAOS, CCAA, Chaplaincy Australia, Transforming Practices, PACFA, AASW, APS, or equivalent¹.*

A professional supervisor will also:

- *hold professional membership with a relevant professional association or be working towards holding membership; and*
- *hold adequate professional indemnity and public liability insurance covering working as a professional supervisor; and*
- *be receiving regular continuing professional development in supervision (5 hours per annum recommended); and*
- *be receiving their own professional supervision for their practice.*

In addition, a professional supervisor should:

¹ AAOS = Australian Association of Supervision; CCAA= Christian Counselling Association of Australia; PACFA = Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia; AASW = Australian Association of Social Work; APS = Australian Association of Psychology.

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- *have a suitable respect for and understanding of the context and framework in which the minister works; and*
 - *have a degree of independence from the institution within which the person is in ministry.*
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A note about the last point. Across the christian churches in Australia there are a range of interpretations as to what a '*degree of independence*' actually means. At this stage our policy is that we, the clergy of our diocese, should not receive supervision from anyone with whom we have a working relationship.

For example a minister would not receive from, or give supervision to, someone who was their rector, Area Dean, Archdeacon or Bishop. The same concept holds true for working relationships in chaplaincy units and diocesan agencies.

Professional Pastoral Supervision is *not* line management and both parties need to feel safe, comfortable and free to address any issues that arise. Professional Supervision is a structured, intentional working relationship that is meant to provide a high degree of suitable and independent support.

To assist you in finding a supervisor I have provided three links. The first is the recognised supervisor list from the Australasian Association of Supervisors (AAOS):

<https://www.supervision.org.au/member-search/>

The second is the recognised supervisor list from Chaplaincy Australia.

<https://www.chaplaincyaustralia.com/supervision-2/>

These are just two of the professional bodies that have qualified supervisors. Others include CCAA, PACFA, AASW and APS².

A third list can be found on the St Marks website.

<https://stmarks.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/St-Marks-Recommended-Supervisors-List-2023.pdf>

This list has been compiled for students undertaking studies in professional supervision. This course is for both clinical and pastoral supervisors. It is not an official diocesan list but does contain a long list of supervisors plus links to other on-line lists.

If you have any questions, need clarification or further help please contact the bishops office who will direct your query to the Ministry Wellbeing and Development team.

² PACFA = Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia; AASW = Australian Association of Social Work; APS = Australian Association of Psychology.