



New name, new logo

We hope that members are pleased with the new name and logo. There has been a lot of thought, prayer and discussion about the name and the design of the logo. The name takes us forward in two ways. Firstly, it helps clarify who our counselling members are. We are an association of Christians in counselling. We are not a homogenous group of people trained in a practicing a form of therapy called 'Christian Counselling', but rather a diverse group of counsellors, trained in many modalities, including for some the integration of Christian faith and counselling. Our faith is a given that transcends our modalities, which we trust infuses the quality of our presence with clients and colleagues, whether as practitioners or not, we ever work explicitly with religious faith in the counselling room. For some clients it gives confidence to open up about their spirituality and religious identity. The new name helps to communicate this to employers, EAP's and other stakeholders.

Secondly 'linked professions' gives space for our pastoral care membership in our organisational name, for the first time. It also allows expansion to bring in coaches and spiritual directors. The word 'profession' is about having standards of training and practice, and codes of conduct and accountability that are transparent and help to ensure the safety of people accessing services. It is a word that is arguably more 'graspable' in its meaning for the general public and organisations than the alternative we considered, which was ministries.

Finally, the shapes in the icon help to express that the areas that our members work in overlap and complement each other, as well as each having their distinctiveness. We are already a community that learns and grows from the knowledge, skills and experience of each other, and we anticipate that we will remain a community of learning enriched by having insight and perspectives from coaching and spiritual direction.

Support Groups

We have two special interest groups for counsellors, one for working with children and young people and the other for couples. There is some interest in forming a group for counsellors who are ministers, pastors, priests, to explore the special challenges associated with holding these two roles. (Please contact the office if you would like to be connected with these groups.) We also

have facilitated support groups for those involved in pastoral care, available to everyone but especially relevant for those who are co-ordinators, chaplains and/or working with complex situations and demands. And finally, we are about to embark on a project to set-up a similar support group structure for counsellors to provide a space for unburdening, spiritual formation and companionship.

Kathy Spooner, CEO

At the centre

When we think of our role at the centre of ACC, we believe that we are holding professional boundaries in love. By this we mean that we try to respect and support members even where they may be issues with membership or their practice. We think this is also the foundation for what our members do as they serve others

- powered by the love of God
- in safe and accountable ways
- that respect and value the whole person
- in true relational connection
- using knowledge and skills
- with the support of one another
- to bring positive change to people
- so that they can live well and make good choices.

We are expressing this central desire to support members through the acronym **CARE**. We are:

Connecting: clients with safe therapists/practitioners, and colleagues with shared professions and faith.

Accompanying: students in training, counsellors in professional development, with ethical questions and dilemmas, life events, support groups and prayer.

Resourcing: guidance, training, forums, conferences, **accord**.

Engaging: with the professional counselling world, other stakeholders, and the Church.