

## **Is Online Clinical Pastoral Education Effective? An Australian Case Study**

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COVID-19 travel restrictions have negatively impacted face-to-face Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) supervision, teaching, and training. The pandemic forced many Clinical Pastoral Education programs to cancel in person and move online in Australia. Due to lockdown and COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Islamic Science and Research Academy of Australia (ISRA), with the co-operation of New South Wales College of Clinical Pastoral Education, have had to run the CPE course in Sydney via Zoom. The online CPE program opened a new horizons but also some challenges. This paper first examines the results of data from a six-month online group and individual teaching and supervision in CPE. Secondly, it analyses the findings of a survey conducted to determine the degree of satisfaction with online teaching and supervision. Thirdly, it analyses the challenges and advantages of online teaching and supervision. The results of online CPE and individual supervision data show that there are some blind spots. Finally, it argues that online supervision does not give a real sense compared to face-to-face interactions. This study finds that various types of distractions, the lack of non-verbal messages, and building intimacy negatively impact online CPE compared to in person.

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