



Spiritual Health  
Victoria

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2018

"Spiritual care: Creating more compassionate, person-centred health care"



<p><b>ABOUT US</b></p>	<p>Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV) is the peak body enabling quality spiritual care across the health spectrum. SHV works in collaboration with spiritual care practitioners, faith communities and health services across Victoria and is supported by the State Government of Victoria through the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Our core strategic intents are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity and accountability for spiritual care to be delivered as an integral part of person centred care.</li> <li>• Support faith communities, spiritual care practitioners and health services to provide comprehensive and quality spiritual care that addresses the spiritual care needs of the community.</li> </ul> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working closely and collaboratively with State Government, faith communities, spiritual care practitioners and other service providers, health services, relevant organisations and agencies, Primary Health Networks, education providers and patients, consumers and carers.</li> <li>• Developing a competent, skilled and accountable workforce.</li> <li>• Supporting, developing, innovating and evaluating service provision in response to identified needs.</li> <li>• Being a discerning, responsive, accountable and reflective organisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUR VISION</b></p>	<p>A sustainable organisation that advances the availability and essential contribution of spiritual care to every Victorian in every healthcare setting.</p>
<p><b>OUR MISSION</b></p>	<p>Enabling the provision of quality spiritual care as an integral part of healthcare in Victoria.</p>
<p><b>OUR VALUES</b></p>	<p>Respect, Compassion, Inclusiveness, Excellence.</p>

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

*Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV) believes that when spiritual needs are recognised and responded to as an integral part of health care an essential contribution is made to the health and wellbeing of the community.*

What is spirituality?

*Spirituality is a dynamic and intrinsic aspect of humanity through which persons seek ultimate meaning, purpose, and transcendence, and experience relationship to self, family, others, community, society, nature, and the significant or sacred. Spirituality is expressed through beliefs, values, traditions and practices.*

(Puchalski et al., Spiritual Dimension of Whole Person Care: Reaching National and International Consensus. 2014, p. 646)

Spirituality is individual, subjective and can be expressed in different ways. Some people choose to express their spirituality through religion or religious practice, while others may not. Spirituality can also be described as the search for answers to life's big questions, such as: Why is this happening to me? What does it all mean? What gives me comfort and hope? Does my life have meaning? What happens after we die?

The role of spirituality in health

Issues of spirituality, faith and religion are important to many people in Victoria's health care system. Two out of three Victorians connect with some form of religious affiliation with many others describing themselves as "spiritual but not religious". Regardless of whether religious faith is a part of a person's life, assessing their spiritual needs can help determine how they perceive health and illness, death and dying and other major life transitions. These perceptions are likely to influence care plans and the person's ability to cope.

What is spiritual care?

Spiritual care provides a supportive, compassionate presence for people at significant times of transition, illness, grief or loss. This care is most often delivered through attentive and reflective listening and seeks to identify the person's spiritual resources, hopes and needs. Care is provided from a multi-faith and spiritual perspective offering support, comfort, spiritual counselling, and faith based chaplaincy and religious services to patients and their families. Spiritual care is a collaborative and respectful partnership between the person and their health care provider and is an integral component of holistic care.

## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

<b>CLINICAL CARE</b>	1. Developing an evidence informed and accountable spiritual care service that is responsive to people's needs.
<b>EDUCATION/TRAINING</b>	2. Building health workforce capacity and competence for the provision of spiritual care.
<b>RESEARCH</b>	3. Developing the evidence base for the inclusion of spiritual care as an integral part of health care.
<b>POLICY/ADVOCACY</b>	4. Increasing organisational influence, effectiveness and responsiveness to opportunities that enable our vision.
<b>COMMUNICATION &amp; DISEMMINATION</b>	5. Being a conduit for information to maximise sector and community knowledge and engagement.
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	6. Fostering collaboration and partnerships to expand the availability and accessibility of spiritual care.

## OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CLINICAL CARE	OBJECTIVES
<p>1. Developing an evidence informed and accountable spiritual care service that is responsive to people’s needs.</p>	<p>1.1 Provide leadership in the development of processes for credentialing and registration of spiritual care practitioners.</p>
	<p>1.2 Develop and implement SHV Guidelines for the Provision of Spiritual Care in Victorian Health Services.</p>
	<p>1.3 Support the development and implementation of a minimum data set for the collection of data on spiritual care provision.</p>
	<p>1.4 Increase engagement and participation of consumers in the development and evaluation of spiritual care services.</p>
	<p>1.5 Expand multi-faith and multicultural capacities in the provision of spiritual care to respond to increasingly diverse spiritual needs.</p>
	<p>1.6 Foster the inclusion of spiritual care as a measure of quality care in health service reporting.</p>
	<p>1.7 Develop and implement National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care in partnership with PASCOP.</p>

<b>EDUCATION/TRAINING</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
2. Building health workforce capacity and competence for the provision of spiritual care.	2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with tertiary education providers to inform curriculum development & delivery responsive to sector needs.
	2.2 Develop, maintain and evaluate the Professional Development program to ensure it is responsive to sector needs.
	2.3 Extend the availability of the Volunteers Training Program as a minimum requirement for practice.
	2.4 Support the development and delivery of innovative education for all health professionals to increase understanding of spiritual care.
	2.5 Promote the Spirituality in Aged Care Professional Development package as a key tool for implementation of the National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care.
	2.6 Extend models for education & training in regional & rural areas.
	2.7 Develop education to promote “Spiritual Health” for the health sector and wider community sector.
	2.8 Support the development of senior practitioners for spiritual care capable of leading and managing a department in a tertiary hospital.

<b>RESEARCH</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
3. Developing the evidence base for the inclusion of spiritual care as an integral part of health care.	3.1 Increase engagement and participation of spiritual care practitioners in research, including publications.
	3.2 Become a clearing house for the dissemination of current research.
	3.3 Support research on outcome measures for spiritual care provision.
	3.4 Provide and participate in evaluation methods for all education & training delivered through SHV.
	3.5 Evaluate the implementation of the spiritual care minimum data set to ensure meaningful data collected and utilised.
	3.6 Develop and maintain partnerships with research collaborators to extend the capacity for spiritual care research.
	3.7 Develop a “spiritual health audit tool” to measure the integration of spirituality in health services.



<b>POLICY/ADVOCACY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
4. Increasing organisational influence, effectiveness and responsiveness to opportunities that enable our vision.	4.1 Increase engagement with health services at senior levels.
	4.2 Build national alliances to support a cohesive and consistent approach to the development of spiritual care services.
	4.3 Maintain effective and responsive relationships with Government through the Department of Health & Human Services.
	4.4 Increase engagement with health services for the integration of quality spiritual care services through the provision of consultation and advice.
	4.5 Monitor the impact of the implementation of the NDIS on the mental health sector and work with the sector to ensure integration of spiritual care in service provision.

<b>COMMUNICATION &amp; DISEMMINATION</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
5. Being a conduit for information to maximise sector and community knowledge and engagement.	5.1 Develop a user-friendly website responsive to the needs of stakeholders.
	5.2 Develop and implement a social media strategy to bring key SHV messages to a wider audience.
	5.3 Identify opportunities to increase the reach and influence of SHV e-news.

<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
6. Fostering collaboration and partnerships to expand spiritual care service provision.	6.1 Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan.
	6.2 Identify opportunities to work collaboratively with Primary Health Networks.
	6.3 Work with SHV members to identify and develop opportunities to increase community engagement with the delivery of spiritual care.



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