

Meaningful Ageing Australia

Resources

National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/national-guidelines-for-spiritual-care-in-aged-care-documents/>

An extensive search of the academic and 'grey' literature indicated that no guidelines were available that specifically related to spiritual care for older people living in residential aged care or receiving care and support at home. This gap led to a successful funding application through the Australian Government Department of Social Services (later changed to the Department of Health) to develop National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care. As spirituality is integral to quality of life and well-being, it should be accessible to all older people in way that is meaningful to their beliefs, culture and circumstances. The identification of spiritual needs and offering of spiritual care is the responsibility of all care-givers and must be undertaken in ways that are appropriate to their role.

Intergenerational Reminiscence - A leader's guide for aged care organisations and secondary schools

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/intergenerational-remembrance-2/>

This resource is an essential guide for aged care organisations and secondary schools who wish to nurture meaningful relationships between students and older people in care. The award-winning program was originally developed by Carrington for use in their residential aged care facilities. Carrington won the 2016 Meaningful Ageing Australia Quality Practice in Pastoral and Spiritual Care Awards.

ConnecTo Spiritual Screening Tool – A leader's guide

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/connecto-spiritual-screening-tool/>

ConnecTo is a flexible spiritual screening tool for use in a range of settings including residential aged care, community care and palliative care. It was developed by Dr Julie Fletcher during her PhD research and adapted by Meaningful Ageing Australia. The ConnecTo spiritual screening tool acknowledges that spirituality is not just about religion, and that spirituality is expressed through connectedness in five domains. ConnecTo invites people to reflect on their connection with themselves, with others, with nature, with creativity, and with 'something bigger'. For some people, connecting with these domains may be through religion.

Dementia-Specific Christian Worship Service Handbook

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/dementia-specific-worship-service-handbook/>

This Handbook is an essential guide for anyone who leads Christian worship services and wants to review how well they are connecting with people who have dementia, as well as for newcomers to the field. It is ideal for visiting clergy, trainees, volunteers, pastoral carers and/or church communities who want to improve on how they care for people with dementia.

Tech Connect: Staying meaningfully connected in aged care

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/tech-connect-staying-meaningfully-connected-in-aged-care-a-leaders-guide/>

Tech Connect is a guide for leaders in aged care to support aged care residents' spiritual wellbeing by connecting with family and loved ones using technology/social media. The TechConnect program has benefits for older people living in care, their family members, and for staff/volunteers who participate. Tech Connect events are not only about the technology, but more importantly about the relationships that deepen in the lead up to an event, and afterwards. The guide provides an overview of the program, from planning, implementation through to evaluation. It also provides a special section on using technology to maintain relationships for older people living with dementia

Education

Spiritual Care Series – Volunteer Education and Formation Program

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/partners/pastoral-and-spiritual-care-series-2/>

Meaningful Ageing Australia has partnered with the Aged Care Channel (ACC) and Health Television Network (HTN) to produce a series of programs for volunteers, family and friends of older Australians to gain key practical knowledge to offer quality voluntary pastoral and spiritual care. The title is the *Spiritual Care Series*. The series offers the opportunity to redefine what good pastoral care looks like within the context and banner of spiritual care. Broadcaster and Aged Care Presenter, Leigh Hatcher is the host and facilitator of the series. Prof John Swinton has been the expert advisor for the project. The topics in the series are as follows:

Episode 1: Understanding the Ageing Process

Episode 2: Spirituality in Ageing

Episode 3: Good Communication

Episode 4: The Power of Story Telling

Episode 5: Dementia

Episode 6: A New Home and a New Way of Life

Episode 7: Grief, Loss, Death and Dying

Episode 8: Roles, Boundaries and Self-care

Resources - Available to Meaningful Ageing Australia members only:

Spiritual Care Orientation Program – Facilitator’s guide

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/facilitators-guide/>

The Spiritual Care Orientation Program – developed by Meaningful Ageing Australia for their members – is a 45 minute introduction course intended to be part of the regular workplace orientation of your organisation for new staff. It aims to support the professional competence of staff in recognising and responding to the spiritual needs of older people in their care, within the context of their ongoing roles. It discusses, amongst other things, what spirituality is and why it is relevant to their role and spirituality in the workplace, and includes two case studies.

National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care – Implementation Tools

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/national-guidelines-implementation-tools/>

These resources have been developed to support organisations in the implementation of the *National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care*.

Spiritual Care Considerations Series

<https://meaningfulageing.org.au/product/spiritual-care-considerations-series/>

The Spiritual Care Considerations series offers accessible information to provide a snapshot of what is most important for care staff to know across a range of spiritual care topics.

- Transitioning into Residential Aged Care
- Jewish Spirituality & End of Life
- Supporting each other when a resident/client dies
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Spirituality
- Catholic Spirituality & End of Life
- Intellectual Disability and Spirituality
- Intersex Older People Spirituality
- Islamic Spirituality & Family/Home-based Care

- Islamic Spirituality & End of Life
- Jehovah's Witness Spirituality
- Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Older People
- Trans & Gender Diverse Older People