



MEDIA RELEASE for immediate release

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***The Future of Spiritual Care in Australia* report now available**

Spiritual Health Association has launched the much-anticipated research report [*The Future of Spiritual Care in Australia: A national study on spirituality, wellbeing and spiritual care in hospitals.*](#)

The report was officially launched on 18th May by Associate Professor Amanda Walker, Clinical Director at the Australian Commission for Safety & Quality in Health Care, and a specialist in Palliative Medicine.

Ms Walker gave an engaging presentation and then introduced the accompanying short film [*Collective Voice*](#), which includes testimonials from the report.

SHA's CEO Cheryl Holmes also presented and stated "We did this study because we want to make sure that the spiritual care we are advocating for, is spiritual care that is fit for purpose in the Australian context. We know that Australia is a culturally and spiritually diverse nation, and the way we talk about spirituality and spiritual care needs to use language that is meaningful to people".

The online event was hosted by SHA Chairman of the Board Luke Bowen and Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Georgina Nicholson gave the Welcome to Country.

In 2021, Spiritual Health Association engaged research and communications specialists McCrindle to conduct Australian research into how Australians communicate about spirituality, their experiences of spiritual care and their thoughts about spiritual care in health. McCrindle conducted four focus groups and an Australia-wide survey with 2,501 respondents as part of this research.

Key to this research is understanding the role of care in the hospitals of the future, knowing what planning and training is required for the future workforce and the overall benefits of spirituality to individuals, societies and organisations.

The findings of this report will be used to educate the public about the connection between spirituality, health and wellbeing, and the role of spiritual care within hospital settings.

For more information visit www.spiritualhealth.org.au/research.

Follow SHA on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for daily content from the report, and updates on [twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

***The Future of Spiritual Care in Australia* report - Key Findings**

1. Australia is a culturally and spiritually diverse nation.

Survey participants currently identify with or practice:

- Christianity - Catholic/ Orthodox (26.1%)
- Christianity - Protestant/ Evangelical (18.4%)



- Islam (2.8%)
- Buddhism (2.7%)
- Hinduism (1.8%)
- Other (1.9%)
- Judaism (0.5%)
- No religion or spiritual belief (32.5%)
- Have spiritual beliefs, but do not identify with any main religion (13.4%)

2. Spirituality has an evolving meaning

Australians consider a range of experiences to be spiritual, and feel extremely or very connected to:

- Nature (53%)
- Humanity as a whole (40%)
- The universe (37%)
- A higher power (34%)

3. Spirituality is essential to wellbeing

Australians feel that spirituality is connected to:

- Mental wellbeing (55%)
- Relational wellbeing (43%)
- Physical wellbeing (41%)

4. Spiritual care supports the things that give meaning to a person's life

Australians desire avenues for holistic care in hospitals, and stated that spiritual care helped them to feel:

- More confident about their treatment process (85%)
- Supported by others who listened to their hopes and fears (84%)
- Comforted by their religious or spiritual beliefs (82%)

5. Australians have a desire for spiritual care

- 77% believe that spiritual care should be offered in private hospitals
- 75% believe that spiritual care should be offered in public hospitals
- 65% of Australians have had extremely positive/ very positive experiences with spiritual care
- 54% of Australians would be interested in receiving spiritual care in the future

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