

VALID Statement on Spirituality

Statement of Purpose

<p>Faith and spirituality is important to many people.</p> <p>Many people with disabilities have not been given the chance to choose, talk or find out about their own faith or spirituality.</p> <p>Faith and spirituality can mean different things to different people.</p> <p>For some people Spirituality can be formal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• following a religion, <p>it can be informal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• knowing who you are and what you believe in <p>or it can be doing things with others (communal).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Going to a service - church, synagogue, mosque etc.	<p>Faith and spirituality provide positive supports to many Victorians.</p> <p>The rights, needs and wishes of many people with disabilities, in regards to their spiritual expression, have been largely overlooked or denied. Spirituality is a very important part of the human condition. It is expressed uniquely, and may be formal or informal, individual or communal, and maybe expressed through music, art, creativity, religion and/or relationships.</p>
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For some people spirituality can be through music, art, mediation, prayer, religion and/or relationships

Rationale (reason for Statement of purpose)

The United Nations Convention on the rights of People with Disabilities says people should not be treated differently because of their religion.

In Australia it is against the law to treat people differently because they have a disability

This law is called the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

This means that people with disabilities have the right to:

- Choose their faith and spirituality
- Participate in their faith and spirituality.

The United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities* (2006) recognises discrimination should not occur on the basis of many factors, religion being one of them.

Within Australia the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against people on the basis that they have or might have a disability.

VALID supports a person's right to choose and participate in their own spirituality as long as it's in a respectful way.

This could be what they believe in, which religion they follow or the way they choose to live their life.

VALID believes people with disabilities should be supported to participate in any activities that may be part of their faith or spirituality.

VALID supports an individual's right to express and have access to the spirituality of their choice, provided it communicates value and respect for all people. Such spirituality may represent beliefs, definitions and expressions of a particular faith community or of a particular way of life.

VALID, a state advocacy association of people with disabilities, their advocates and people who work in the disability sector, believes that all people with disabilities have the right to spiritual expression of their choice, and that any necessary supports need to be provided for such participation.

Statement of Purpose

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Many people with disabilities have not been given the chance to choose, talk or find out about their own faith or spirituality.

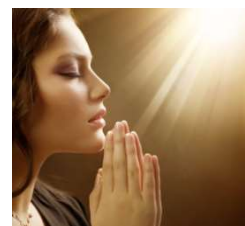


Faith and spirituality can mean different things to different people.



For some people Spirituality can be formal

- following a religion,



it can be informal

- knowing who you are and what you believe in

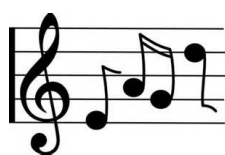


or it can be doing things with others (communal).

- Going to a church, synagogue, mosque etc.



For some people spirituality can be shown through music, art, meditation, prayer, religion and/or relationships



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