

Spirituality for All

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Griffith University statistics show almost twice as many international than domestic students use the chaplaincy service, possibly reflecting a relatively secular Australia in comparison to a more religiously-minded international community. Yet that less than fifty percent of presenting issues are specifically religious or spiritual in nature suggests chaplaincy having a broader appeal than simply traditional matters of religion.

While chaplaincy in Australian universities is almost always ecumenical and multi-faith in nature, it can also speak to a growing interest in spirituality in Australia, where many consider themselves spiritual but not religious. This new spirituality manifests itself in such movements as eco-spirituality, an interest in Aboriginal spirituality, the ANZAC tradition and eastern spiritualities.

In this changing context, chaplaincy's role becomes one of assisting people to recognise and use their own spiritual resources to deal not only with the meaning of life and whatever is confronting them, but to seek a holistic approach to life, embracing the trilogy of body, mind and spirit.

Key Words

Chaplaincy, spirituality, religion