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Spirituality for All

Russell Briese
Coordinator, Chaplaincy

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University Chaplaincy

- Inclusive to the total university community
- Move from denomination-based chaplaincy to ecumenical/multi-faith models

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University Chaplaincy

- ‘I’m not religious but I am spiritual.’
- ‘Everyone has spiritual resources.’
- chaplaincy is about helping people tap into their own spiritual resources
- ‘Aspiration – Well being – Development.’



Differentiate between religion and spirituality

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The term spirituality

‘has broadened to connote the whole of the life of faith and even the life of the person as a whole, including its bodily, psychological, social, and political dimensions.’

Commonality between religion and spirituality

To bring meaning to personal existence

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A Spiritual Revolution

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Religious revitalisation in the world

- rise of Muslim fundamentalism,
- the strengthening of the protestant right
- a burgeoning Pentecostal movement

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Religious revitalisation in Australia

- revitalisation in civic rites
- rise of mega churches
- rise of high demand religious groups
- New Age movement

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‘Secularism was here to stay; God was dead... And that... was the end of the matter.’
‘But it wasn’t.’

Why the change?

Science, consumerism, rapid shift in social conditions, lead to a crisis of meaning...

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Australia is a secular nation!

- Key distinction: ‘spirituality yes, but church no.’
- Yet while we may be less churched, there is an argument to be made that Australians are more spiritual than ever.
- Moving back to the university context, to be all embracing, chaplaincy must be bigger than promoting services which are ecumenical or multi-faith.

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“the spirituality revolution”
described as “individuals taking
authority into their own hands.”

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new spirituality in Australia

- Aboriginal Spirituality
- Ecospirituality
- ANZAC tradition
- Sport!

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If we grant that each person has spiritual tools, chaplaincy is able to embrace all of those journeys, and walk with people who seek to consider the questions of life.

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Conclusion

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