

Survey Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The survey seeks to gather information from a broad range of stakeholders in health care about current attitudes to the role of spiritual care in hospitals. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. Individual participants in this survey will not be identifiable in the findings and the data will be available as a de-identified data base for future research purposes.

The data from the survey will be used to inform a national consensus conference *Enhancing Quality & Safety: Spiritual Care in Health* to be held on 1-2 June 2017.

The conference, to be facilitated by Dr Norman Swan, will bring together key health experts and influencers, researchers, academics and practitioners to work towards:

- Integration of viable and sustainable spiritual care models;
- Consistency and quality in education and training;
- A nationally consistent governance framework to ensure quality and safety in spiritual care services.

Over the last two decades there has been increasing attention given to quality and safety in the provision of health care. Within this context there is recognition that safety and quality of care require more than attention to the medical and technological aspects of care. Patient-centred care that incorporates concern for the patient's beliefs and values, has been identified by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care as a key component for safe and high quality care. [1] The need to care for the patient's psychosocial, cultural and spiritual needs is increasingly turning up in national and state government reports and papers.[2] This parallels the rise in research and literature concerned with the connections between responsiveness to patient's emotional and spiritual needs and their perceptions of care.

Spiritual care is being provided in Australian hospitals by a range of providers with a range of capabilities and competencies. Spiritual care is an essential component of safe and quality care but presently there is no consistent approach to the delivery of spiritual care across the health system.

Your participation in this survey will assist us to ensure best practice spiritual care provision in Australian hospitals, enhancing the delivery of safety and quality of care for all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Holmes
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Matt Glover
CEO, Spiritual Care Australia

If you have any concerns or questions in relation to this survey please contact:

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[1] Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. (2011). Patient-centred care: Improving quality and safety through partnerships with patients and consumers. Sydney: ACSQHC.

[2] Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. (2015b). National Consensus Statement: essential elements for safe and high-quality end-of-life care. Sydney: ACSQHC.