



Domain 4: Ethical context of spiritual care

Outcome 4.10: *Spiritual care complies with all relevant legal requirements and codes of conduct/codes of practice.*

The audiences for this tool include:

Executive	Leaders & managers	Frontline & clinical	Support Services
CEO	Spiritual/pastoral care	Spiritual care	Information Technology
Executive	Lifestyle/activities	Lifestyle	Building & maintenance
	Allied Health	Nursing	
	Clinical	Personal Care	
	Human Resources	Food Services	
	Innovation & strategy	Cleaning & laundry	
	Training & education	Allied Health	
	Research & development	Case managers	
	Hotel services		
	Volunteer coordinator		

Contents

1. Introduction	Page 2
2. Codes of conduct	Page 3
3. Standards	Page 3
4. Legal requirements	Page 3
5. Checks	Page 3
6. For specialist spiritual care practitioners	Page 3
7. Resources	Page 4



1. Introduction

The ethical conduct of staff, consultants and volunteers conducting spiritual care is paramount in providing meaningful, respectful and appropriate care. This tool provides a list of suggestions and links to online resources that support your organisation in ethical practice, including codes of conduct, standards and legislation for all staff, and specific information for specialist spiritual care practitioners. You are invited to review the documents relevant to your organisation, and to assess current practice of all staff and volunteers.

An overarching theme in spiritual care codes of conduct is that it requires an attitude of being open and ready to engage in meaningful conversations through curious enquiry, while being able to discern where there is a need for privacy and respect for boundaries. This includes respect for difference and for personal choice.

Spiritual Care Practitioners can choose to be registered with Spiritual Care Australia who have established a Code of Conduct and Standards of Practice. All practitioners should be clearly accountable to their employing body and/or by their credentialed faith community.

It may be useful to review one aspect of a relevant code of conduct at regular intervals throughout the year, or put aside one date to review and another to discuss with key team members. Talk about practical ways that your team demonstrates they are working within the boundaries expected of them. Make sure they know what to do if they come across something that is not appropriate.

2. Codes of Conduct – Where to find them

Codes of Conduct for your health or caring professional group (may be via your professional association)

Codes of Conduct for your organisation

Codes of Conduct for your religious/faith group (if relevant)

National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers (2017)

This Code relates to “any person who provides a health service and is not a registered health practitioner under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS); and any person who is a registered health practitioner under the NRAS but who provides health services unrelated to their registration” (Australian Health Minister’s Advisory Council, 2014).

<http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Announcements/ArtMID/527/ArticleID/54/Final-Report-A-National-Code-of-Conduct-for-health-care-workers>



3. Standards

Department of Health Community Care Standards – Home Care Standards and Quality Reporting Documentation

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/home-care-standards-and-quality-reporting-documentation>
https://agedcare.health.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1426/f/documents/09_2014/community_care_standard_guidelines2.pdf

Department of Health Residential Aged Care Facilities Standards -

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/ensuring-quality/standards>
https://www.aacqa.gov.au/for-providers/residential-aged-care/resources/other-resources/AACQ0035_pocket_guide_2014final.pdf

4. Legal requirements

Legislation pertaining to Aged Care can be found at:

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/publications-and-articles/legislation>

Legislation pertaining to Mental Health and Disability is the responsibility of each state and territory. Please visit the appropriate website for your locality.

Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

<https://www.aacqa.gov.au/contact-us/contact-us>

5. Checks

All practitioners (employed, contract, volunteer and visiting faith-based) should have the following:

- Working with Children Check (for your state)
- Police Check (for your state)

6. For Specialist Spiritual Care Practitioners

Codes of conduct specific to your faith group (if relevant)

Codes of Conduct for Spiritual Care Practitioners:

Spiritual Care Australia-

https://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/SCA/Documents/Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Standards of Practice

Spiritual Care Australia - Standards of Practice

http://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/SCA/Documents/SCA_Standards_of_Practice_Document.pdf

Standards of Practice ACT

<http://www.pastoralcareact.org/Documents/Standards%20of%20Practice%20for%20Pastoral%20Care%202013-06-11.pdf>



Accreditation

Check accreditation and qualifications for volunteers or visiting faith-based practitioners.

Supervision

It is recommended that all spiritual care practitioners engage in regular clinical supervision, as outlined by Spiritual Care Australia policy, and/or in line with their specific faith body guidelines.

https://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/SCA/Documents/SCA_Supervision_Policy.pdf

7. Resources

<http://www.spiritualhealthvictoria.org.au/standards-and-guidelines> - Credentialing Document

US Professional Chaplains (as an example)

http://www.professionalchaplains.org/files/professional_standards/common_standards/common_code_ethics.pdf

Aged Care Complaints Commissioner Contact

<https://www.agedcarecomplaints.gov.au/> or call 1800 550 552

We welcome your feedback: admin@meaningfulage.org.au.

Meaningful Ageing Australia offers a consultancy to members to assist you with implementation.

Date: 26.9.17