Despite a decline in religious involvement in western societies, in recent decades, many people continue to search for meaning in their lives. This is essentially a spiritual search that may intensify with increasing age and the need to maintain hope despite disability, frailty, dementia and the imminence of death.

The study of spirituality is a relatively new field of research, but research has shown that meeting spiritual needs improves mental and spiritual health and well being. While acknowledging the importance of spirituality, many health and aged care staff feel inadequate to broach the topic with their patients/residents and do not know how to provide appropriate support.

Elizabeth MacKinlay will facilitate this webinar and talk about what spirituality is, the future needs of the ageing baby boomer cohort and spirituality, and spirituality in issues of frailty, end of life care and dementia.

Chris Perkins will provide an overview of studies on ageing and spirituality with a discussion on research and specific issues in New Zealand. David Petty will discuss the current Australian experience of ageing and spirituality and give you a practical take on spirituality.
About the presenters

Spirituality in Ageing and Aged Care – Who Cares?

DAVID PETTY
Executive Officer, PASCOP
David comes to PASCOP with significant experience in establishing and managing national member-based support organisations. As a consultant he assisted in the development of the Friends of the National Rural Health Alliance. David served as Executive Officer to Heart Support-Australia and has also worked in training, quality assurance and marketing. Immediately prior to his appointment to PASCOP, David returned to his original profession of nursing, working in various clinical nursing roles as a Registered Nurse and for the University of Wollongong as a clinical facilitator. Above all David is passionate about the value of spiritual and pastoral care.

CHRIS PERKINS
Director, Selwyn Centre for Ageing and Spirituality
Chris Perkins is a psychiatrist who has mainly worked with older people for most of her career – as a result she has developed an interest in dementia and is the author of Dementia: What You Need to Know (3rd edition of dementia: a New Zealand Guide). She keeps in touch with psychiatric practice by doing occasional locums around New Zealand. She is the chair of the National Dementia Cooperative. She has been employed by the Selwyn Foundation for nearly 5 years as the Director of the Selwyn Centre for Ageing. The Centre was set up in recognition of spirituality as being central to holistic care; the key areas of focus are education, research and advocacy. Since being in this job it has been a steep learning curve for her! She has also noticed that New Zealanders seem to be more interested in spirituality, though not necessarily in traditional faith terms.

REV PROF ELIZABETH MACKINLAY
School of Theology, Charles Sturt University
Elizabeth is both a registered nurse and a priest in the Anglican Church and she was the inaugural Director of the Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies at St Mark’s National Theological Centre, Canberra, until the end of 2012. She is a Professor in the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. Recently completed research includes an ANZ Charitable Foundation: JO & JR Wicking Trust grant 2007-2010: Minimising the impact of depression and dementia for elders in residential care. A further Wicking Trust grant was received to extend this work, 2011-2014. Elizabeth was Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, her term ending in 2008. She is a member of the Order of Australia (AM). She was the ACT Senior Australian of the Year for 2009. An active researcher and writer, Elizabeth has presented many papers and workshops, including keynote addresses both nationally and internationally. Her most recent books, in 2012 were Palliative Care, Ageing and Spirituality: A guide for older people, carers and families, and MacKinlay and Trevitt, Finding meaning in the experience of dementia. This book was awarded the 2013 Australasian Journal of Ageing book prize.
# How to register

**Online at:** www.aag.asn.au  
**Email:** enquiries@aag.asn.au  
**Post:** Suite 8, 322 St Kilda Road, St Kilda, Vic 3182  
For more information, please contact enquiries@aag.asn.au or 03 9939 8693

## Event Name

**Spirituality in Ageing and Aged Care – Who Cares?**

### Event Pricing

- **AAG Members:** FREE  
- **NZAG Members:** FREE  
- **Non-members:** $20  
- Corporate Membership entitles two nominated staff members to attend at the member rate.

### Payment Details

- **Payments details** Please select credit card type or other payment method:  
  - Visa  
  - Mastercard  
- **Card Number**  
- **Expiry Date**  
- **CVV NO.**  
- **Card Holder’s Name**  
- **Card Holder’s Signature**

- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payable to:**  
  - Australian Association of Gerontology  
  - BSB no: 034 264 Account no: 261 509  
  - Payment Reference: NAT140318_LastName  
- **Cheque payable to:** Australian Association of Gerontology

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