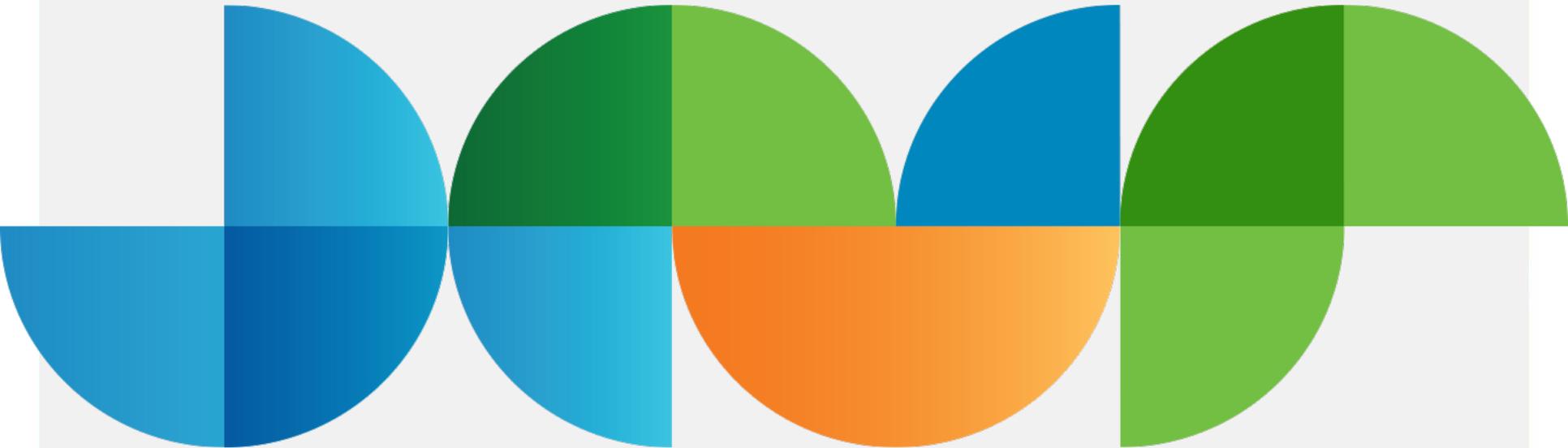




# NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SPIRITUAL CARE IN AGED CARE



**48<sup>th</sup> Annual AAG Conference**

**DAVE PETTY, CEO PASCOP**

**National Guidelines in Spiritual Care for Aged Care project**

A partnership between



**Spiritual Health Victoria**

Project management by



This project is funded by



**Australian Government  
Department of Social Services**

# OVERVIEW

- Definitions
- National Guidelines for Spiritual Care in Aged Care
- Overview of the project
- Outcomes thus far
- More information
- References

# DEFINITION OF SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality is the aspect of humanity that refers to the way individuals seek and express meaning and purpose and the way they experience their connectedness to the moment, to self, to others, to nature, and to the significant or sacred.

(Puchalski, Vitillo, Hull, & Reller, 2014).

# DEFINITION OF SPIRITUAL CARE

## Spiritual care is...

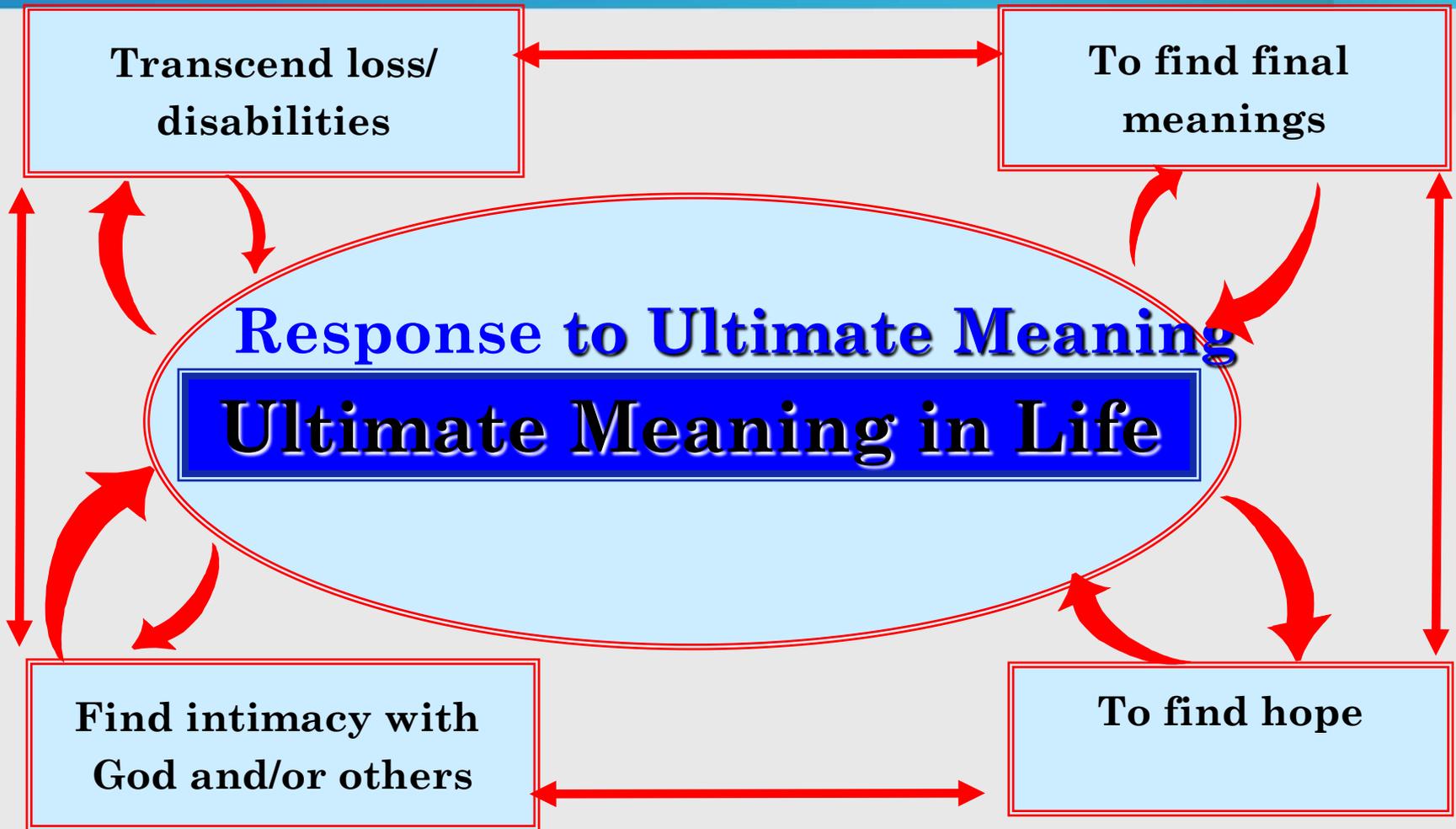
- connecting with people deeply
- supporting spiritual tasks of ageing
- occurs on a daily basis
- as important as physical/social needs
- felt as warmth, care and compassion
- Identifying needs, responding and referring where appropriate
- Putting on a spiritual lens

## Spiritual care is not...

- task-orientated
- all about religion/faith
- about imposing your views
- a specialist activity
- the sole responsibility of specialists

Adapted from 'Spirituality in nursing care; a pocket guide.  
(Royal College of Nursing United Kingdom, 2011)

# SPIRITUAL TASKS OF AGEING



MacKinlay, 2001

# NGSCAC PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project stages:

Phase 1 – Stakeholder engagement

Phase 2 – Literature review

Phase 3 – Consultation

Phase 4 – Draft, pilot, evaluate and finalisation of the Guidelines

# THEMES FROM CONSULTATION

- Spiritual needs can arise at any time
- All staff should have a basic awareness of spirituality
- Whole-of-organisation commitment to spiritual care is essential
- Spiritual needs should be incorporated into care model
- Spiritual indicators are as important as quality measures
- Spirituality should be part of leisure, lifestyle and activities
- Referrals should be made to specialist spiritual workers
- Connections and relationship are a high priority for older people
- Spiritual care can be part of everyday activities, not an added-extra
- Older people want access to a sacred space in residential care

# LITERATURE REVIEW FINDINGS

- Definition of what is spiritual care and what spiritual care is and is not.
- Spiritual care is everybody's job.
- All organisations need access to expert spiritual care.
- Spiritual care needs to be multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary and include families.
- All staff should be aware of their own spirituality and aware of their limitations.
- Spiritual assessment and re-evaluation are mandatory components of spiritual care.
- Spiritual care has to be part of a care plan – there may be levels of care defined.
- Assessment instruments that are consistent across health settings are important.
- Evidence shows access to spiritual care can improve mental health other conditions.
- Cost studies about the benefit of providing spiritual care are lacking in the literature.
- Existing guidelines that include domains about spiritual care are very simplistic.
- Existing spiritual care guidelines are very general, and none specifically address aged care.

(Doyle & Jackson, 2015)

# NEXT STEPS

- Seeking submissions and survey on the draft Guidelines
- Development of resources to support the pilot
- Piloting of the Guidelines
  - 3 residential care homes
  - 3 home care organisations
- Evaluation of the pilot
- Final round of consultation before publishing

# REFERENCES

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# MORE INFORMATION

Visit the PASCOP website

[www.pascop.org.au](http://www.pascop.org.au)

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