



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA

Access to Religious Support at the University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania is a secular organisation and as such will not appoint official representatives of any religion or denomination to conduct religious activities within the University. However, the University recognises the spiritual dimensions of life and living, that some of its staff and students may be active practitioners of their respective religions, and that as members of the University community they may seek access to religious support in the University environment, as well as in their personal life.

The University also recognises the religious traditions of the Residential Colleges that continue to form part of their communal life. Christ College, St John Fisher College and Jane Franklin Hall have traditionally provided accommodation for students in Hobart within a caring environment in which counselling, pastoral and spiritual support are emphasised.

The University will assist the members of its community that wish to gain access to religious support in the University environment in the following ways:

- Through services offered within the Colleges for residential students.
- Through clubs and societies affiliated with and supported by the student organisations (the TUU and the SA).
- By providing information on community-based ministries and religious services available to staff and students.
- By support for multi-faith centres which provide a focus for religious activity for students and staff at the Hobart and Launceston campuses and a resource base from which visiting representatives of religious organisations can work.
- By ecumenical support for NW Centre students and staff facilitated through visiting representatives of religious organisations.
- Through support arrangements for Muslim and other non-Christian students organised through the University's International Services section.

Through these avenues the spiritual needs of staff and students who seek pastoral care, opportunities for worship and assistance in times of need may be supported and nurtured within the University environment.

The ecumenical role of visiting representatives of religious organisations is not to proselytise but rather to work within the secular University, respecting the University's mission and goals and recognising the primary role of religious ministries in the wider community in meeting the spiritual needs of staff and students. Their role extends to the consideration of students or staff seeking support from other denominations and religious faiths, facilitating this support wherever possible.

Additional support for students with religious needs is available from the University's Student Services and International Services sections and from the TUU and SA.

The University encourages student and staff participation in debate on contemporary issues including those of a spiritual dimension, to help to promote understanding and tolerance across the diverse groups represented within the University and its wider community.

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