



# faith friendly communities

## The Vision

An Australian society of 'faith friendly' communities - people of all cultural backgrounds, religious faiths, spiritual persuasions and world views open to each other and respectful of each other.

## The Australian Context

### Democracy

Australia values democracy, the equality of all individuals before the law, human dignity and the freedom for all citizens to explore ideas and debate openly.

### Diversity

Australia values a diversity of cultural backgrounds, religious faiths, spiritual persuasions and world views, including those of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as significant contributions to a rich Australian ethos.

### Equality

Australia values fairness and equality in a context where all individuals and groups are free to choose and practice their beliefs, faiths and points of view in a tolerant society.

### Education

Australia values those agencies of the community which enable individuals, young and old, to gain an understanding of the diverse faiths, beliefs and points of view in our society and the requirement to act responsibly and ethically.

## A Faith Friendly Charter

### Principle of Mutual Respect

A faith friendly community seeks to respect the diversity and differences of faiths and beliefs of all in the community.

### Principle of Mutual Understanding

A faith friendly community seeks to learn about, and so understand, the values and beliefs of world religions and diverse spiritualities.

### Principle of Mutual Concern

A faith friendly community provides opportunity for individuals and groups to meet their religious and spiritual needs and to work in harmony for the common good and a sustainable world.

### Principle of Mutual Responsibility

A faith friendly community has a responsibility to facilitate a context of goodwill in which individuals and groups are free to differ peacefully, choose an alternate spiritual path or practice a traditional faith with integrity.

## Achieving the Vision

### Endorsement

Businesses, companies, educational bodies and other institutions endorse the Faith Friendly Charter and explore appropriate ways of developing policies within their respective contexts that would enable faith-friendly communities to emerge.

### Implementation

These same bodies introduce specific vehicles to enable each faith community to celebrate its respective rites and practices within the relevant work, educational or social contexts.

### Support Services

The necessary support services needed to implement these policies and practices be the responsibility of the company, educational institution or other relevant community rather than the individual faith communities as such.

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