

# University of Newcastle Chaplaincy Service Policy

## Section 1 - Introduction

(1) The University of Newcastle is a community which, like any other community, reflects the personal, intellectual, social and spiritual dimensions of life. In this context, the University offers student and staff the opportunity to seek the assistance of Chaplains from a range of faith communities. For the purposes of this policy, a Chaplain is considered to be a person who has been recognised by their denomination to provide personal, intellectual, social and spiritual guidance.

(2) This Policy is supported by the [University of Newcastle Chaplaincy Appointment and Practice Procedure](#) and must be read in conjunction with this document.

## Section 2 - Policy

### Policy Scope

(3) This Policy applies to all staff and students of the University of Newcastle.

### Policy Intent

(4) The intent of this Policy is to provide a framework of principles to guide the appointment and work of University Chaplains. The principles described in this document relate to the operations and use of the University of Newcastle Chaplaincy Service and presence of diverse religious groups on campus.

### Policy Principles

(5) The University will only accept nominations of Chaplains from organisations which have formally been declared religious denominations in accordance with the provision of s.26 of the [Marriage Act 1961](#) (C'th), (as amended). Chaplains are appointed by the University on the nomination of such organisations on the basis of a 12-month appointment, followed by a review and consideration of a further three year appointment.

(6) The University of Newcastle Chaplaincy Service will uphold a commitment to equity and will maintain a balanced representation of diverse faith communities in its composition.

(7) Chaplains will be familiar, supportive of and compliant with University Policy, including but not limited to the [Code of Conduct](#), [Promoting a Respectful and Collaborative University: Diversity and Inclusiveness Policy](#), [Media Policy](#), and the [Privacy Management Plan](#).

(8) Chaplains will recognise our pluralist society and its divergent religious beliefs. As such Chaplains will uphold and deliver a cooperative and pluralistic approach, and will actively maintain respect of all religious beliefs.

(9) Chaplains will not proselytise but will work in a wider spiritual and religious context.

(10) The University of Newcastle Chaplaincy Service and its Chaplains will be available to, and inclusive of, all people who seek their counsel, guidance and support, regardless of religious faith. Any Chaplain in the team may interact with students and staff in relation to their general pastoral or personal needs.

(11) Chaplains are a recognised unit within the University and will report to the University through the Coordinator via the Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Experience and Academic Registrar.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

(12) Please refer to Section 4 of [University Chaplaincy Appointment and Practice Procedure](#).

## Status and Details

Status	Historic
Effective Date	6th January 2015
Review Date	31st December 2019
Approval Authority	Vice-Chancellor
Approval Date	6th January 2015
Expiry Date	23rd January 2023
Responsible Executive	Belinda Tynan Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Enquiries Contact	Student Central

## Glossary Terms and Definitions

**"Campus"** - means any place or premises owned or controlled by the University, but may also specifically refer to a designated operating location such as the Callaghan Campus.

**"Student"** - A person formally enrolled in a course or active in a program offered by the University or affiliated entity.