



‘To belong, I need to be missed’

What helps people with a disability join faith communities?

By Andy Calder



Easy English

Multifaith
Disability Project





What does faith mean?

Faith means you may

- believe in God or a god
- read religious stories
- join in religious festivals.

There are lots of faiths.

For example, your faith may be



- Christian



- Jewish



- Buddhist

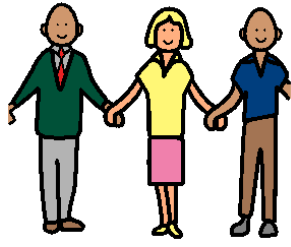


- Muslim

or



- Hindu.

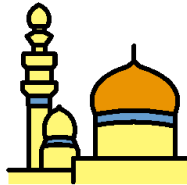


You meet with people in the same **faith**.

You may meet in a



- church



- mosque. You say this word like mosk



- synagogue. You say this word like
sinagog

or



- temple. You say this word like tempel.

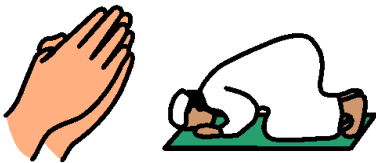


The **faith** leader talks to the **faith** community.

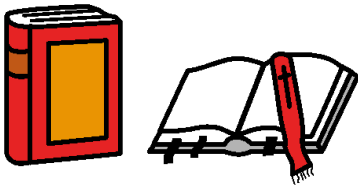
When you meet you



- sing



- pray

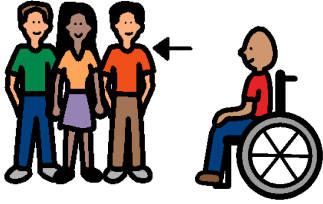


- read books about **faith**.



What this book is about

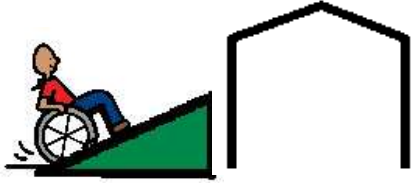
This book is about a study on **faith**.



The study talked to people with a disability.

They said there are 3 ways to include people with a disability in **faith** communities.

The study also says **what will happen** to include people with a disability.



1 You need to get into the place

For example, the

- church
- mosque. You say this word like mosk
- synagogue. You say this word like sinagog
- temple. You say this word like tempel.

You



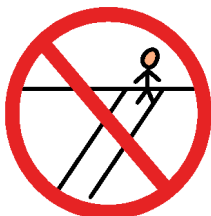
- may use a wheelchair

or



- may use walking stick

or



- can **not** walk far.

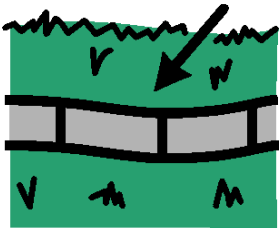


What your faith needs to do

Your **faith** needs to make your place easy to get into. For example,

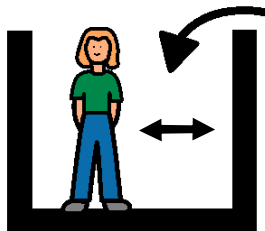


- the car park needs to be close to the place

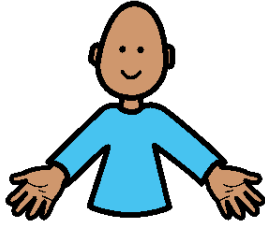


- the paths need to be wide

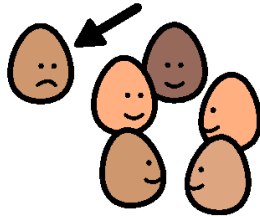
and



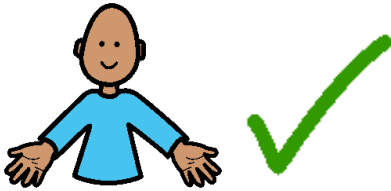
- there needs to be lots of room inside.



2 You need to feel welcome



You may be treated differently because you have a disability.

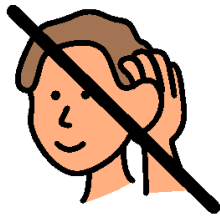


What your faith needs to do



People in your **faith** need to

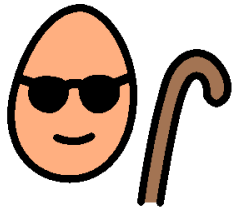
- be friendly
- talk to you like an adult
- value what you say
- **not** feel sorry for you.



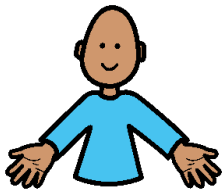
You may be

- deaf

or



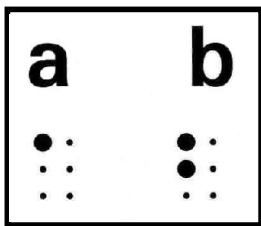
- blind.



What your faith needs to do

Your **faith** needs to give you information in a way you can understand. This will help you be part of the **faith** community.

For example, written information in

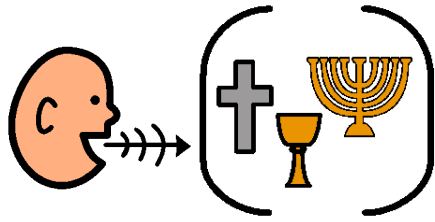


- Braille

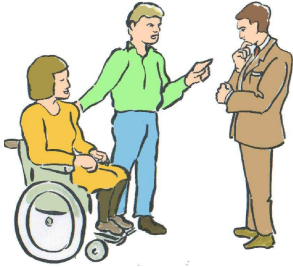
or



- Easy English.



3 You need to have a say about your faith community



You may speak up for people with a disability. For example,

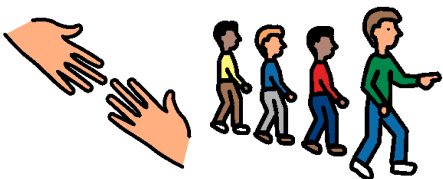
- say what people with a disability need
- be in a community that makes decisions.



What your faith needs to do



- Listen to you.

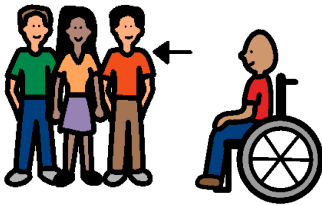


- Help you be a leader.

What will happen



You and your **faith** leaders need to make a plan.



The plan will say how to include you.



Each **faith** community in Victoria will make a plan.



More information

Andy Calder

Disability Inclusion, Uniting Church Synod of
Victoria and Tasmania



Phone 03 92515489

Speak and Listen

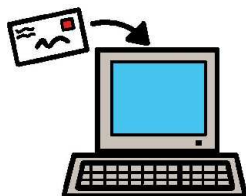
(speech-to-speech relay) users

phone 1300 555 727.

Ask for 03 9742 0777



TTY 133 677. Ask for 03 9742 0777.



Email andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au



Internet relay users. Go to the National Relay

Service www.relayservice.com.au.

Ask for 03 9742 0777

Easy English written for the Uniting Church by the Communication Resource Centre, Scope. October 2010. www.scopevic.org.au

The Picture Communication Symbols © 1981 – 2010 by Mayer-Johnson LLC. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with Permission.

Valuing People ClipArt © Inspired Services, UK.
www.inspiredservices.org.uk

This information is from the Multi-Faith Steering Committee. With help from the Uniting Church and the Office for Disability - The Department of Planning and Community Development. **Research report - To belong, I need to be missed. 2010.**

Acknowledgements

All interviewees, people with disabilities, and faith leaders, for sharing their thoughts, experiences and insights.

The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Department of Planning and Community Development.

Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania for funding support, and auspicings of the research.

Easy English version of the Executive Summary written by the Communication Resource Centre, Scope, 2010

Logo design RedFish BlueFish Creative

Cover and back design Mirna Leonita

Members of Reference Group

Theo Mackaay - Chairperson, General Secretary Victorian Council of Churches

Susan Stork Finlay - Consultant Disability and Spirituality

Marcia Pinskier - Founder of Jewish Inclusion Network

Khadiga Hamed - Mercy Mission, Islamic community development

George Zammit - past Board member of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation

Dr Di Cousens - Committee member, Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils

Lyndall Grimshaw, Kath Kelly and Felix Neighbour, Office for Disability, Department of Planning and Community Development

Rev Andy Calder - Researcher, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

