‘To belong, I need to be missed’

What helps people with a disability join faith communities?

By Andy Calder

Easy English
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

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