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## **The Interfaith Project 2015 at James Cook University: Is interfaith dialogue worth exploring at Australian Universities?**

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### **Key words**

*Chaplaincy, diversity, interfaith dialogue, James Cook University, multi-faith, religious identity, spirituality.*

The Multi-Faith Center at James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville established an Interfaith Project in 2015. Inspired by the work of the Interfaith Youth Core and the Peer-to-Peer Ally Program in the United States as well as the Oasis Center in Adelaide, the Townsville project aimed to establish interfaith dialogue and community building within a rural Australian university context. While many programs that had been run out of the JCU Multi-Faith Center catered to and supported individuals within their different faith traditions, there were no programs that intentionally united people of differing religions for the specific purpose of exploring faith and identity.

This article will outline the conceptualization of the project, report on the activities and events that were undertaken, comment on the impact that the project had on staff and students of the university, and draw attention to the potential that interfaith engagement has for chaplains in tertiary settings. The intent of this report is to provide a critical reflection to Chaplains considering whether interfaith engagement is worth adopting within their ministry contexts.

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