

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES REPORT

Overall, **1 IN 2**
Australians do not
identify with a religion

40% Consider
themselves
as Christian, identifying
as Catholic, Orthodox,
Protestant or Evangelical

31% Do not
identify
with any religion or
spiritual belief

19% Spiritual,
not religious

Q: What is your religion?



“ JUST BECAUSE I DON'T
BELIEVE IN GOD, I STILL THINK I
CAN HAVE THAT CONNECTION
TO PEOPLE AND THINGS
IN A SPIRITUAL WAY...”

SPIRITUALITY:

“Self awareness”
“A deeper connection”

RELIGION:

“Attendance”
“Tasks”
“Obligation”

This Australian Communities Report
analyses attitudes towards religion and
Christianity in 21st century Australia.

Commissioned by



Conducted by



“ I DON'T GO TO CHURCH,
I LIKE LOOKING INTO RELIGIONS,
I WANT TO BAPTISE MY SON CATHOLIC. ”

Religious

24%

Not at all active in practising

Christian (Protestant/Evangelical)

27%

Somewhat identify
with a religion, rarely/never
worship as part of a group

34%

Significantly involved in practising
my religion, worship as
part of a group sometimes

21%

16%

Extremely involved in practising
my religion, worship as
part of a group very regularly

13%

**MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANS
ARE BOTH MORE
ACTIVE AND
LESS ACTIVE**

23%

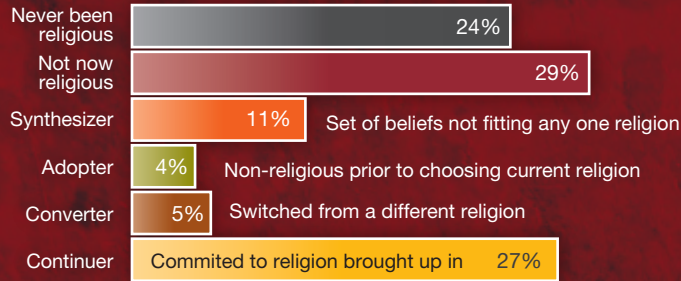
**RELIGIOUS
IDENTITY,
BUT LESS ACTIVITY**

Q: How active are you in practicing your religion?

This national research study by McCrindle Research in October 2011 was based on focus groups and completed surveys from 1,094 Australians.

INFLUENCES ON RELIGIOUS VIEWS

OUTGROWING RELIGION

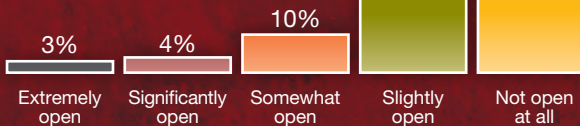


Q: What best describes your current religious status?

“ I WENT TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SO WE HAD TO GO TO CHURCH... IT FADED OUT WHEN I GOT OLDER, IN MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY'S AS WELL... ”

“ THE CHURCH NEEDS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT IS NOT THAT THEY ARE ENFORCING SOMETHING ON THE SOCIETY LET THEM KNOW THAT IT'S ABOUT FAITH ”

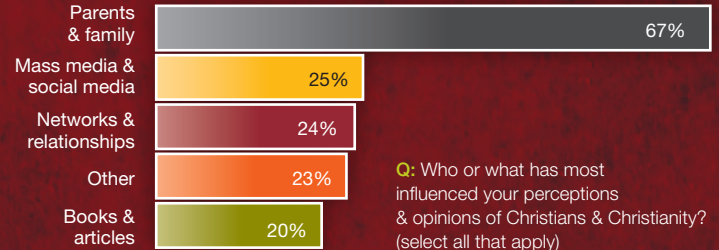
HALF OF AUSSIES “NOT OPEN AT ALL”



BUT ALMOST HALF ARE TO SOME EXTENT “OPEN”

Q: How open are you to changing your religious worldview?

FAMILY IS FORMATIVE



Q: Who or what has most influenced your perceptions & opinions of Christians & Christianity? (select all that apply)

RELIGIOUS CONVERSATIONS: NOT ROUTINE, BUT NOT TABOO



Q: Do you ever talk about spirituality or religion when you gather with friends?

SIGNIFICANT “WARMTH” TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

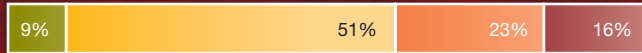


Q: What best describes your current beliefs & attitudes towards Christianity?

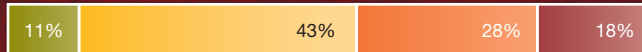
COMMUNICATON & ENGAGEMENT

BEST METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

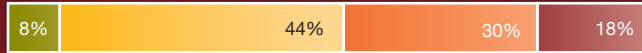
Experience a personal trauma or significant life change



Seeing first hand people who live out a genuine faith



Philosophical discussion and debating ideas



Miraculous stories



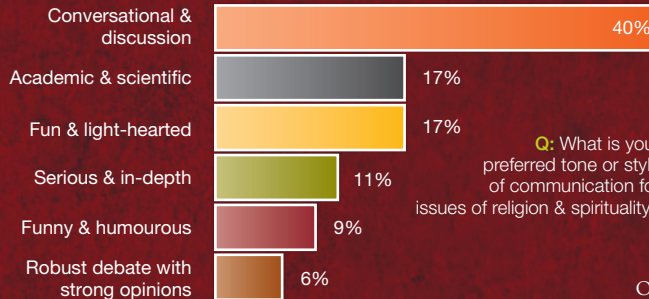
Hearing from public figures and celebrities



Strongly attract Somewhat attract Somewhat repel Strongly repel

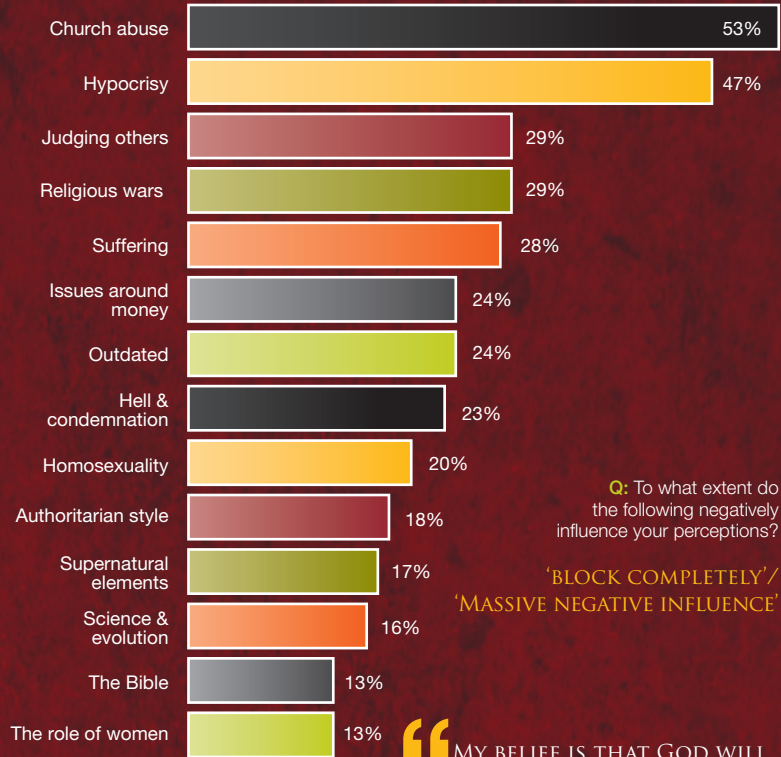
Q: To what extent would the following attract or repel you from investigating religion and spirituality further?

BEST STYLE OF ENGAGEMENT



Q: What is your preferred tone or style of communication for issues of religion & spirituality?

CHRISTIANITY BIGGEST BELIEF BLOCKERS (‘NON CHRISTIANS’ WHO ARE ‘OPEN TO CHANGE’)



Q: To what extent do the following negatively influence your perceptions?

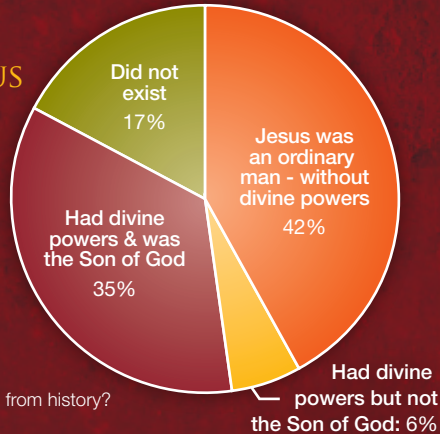
‘BLOCK COMPLETELY’/
‘MASSIVE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE’

“ THEY SHOULD PUT A MESSAGE ACROSS THAT THEY’RE NOT GOING TO BASH PEOPLE OVER THE HEAD FOR NOT COMING IN TEN YEARS ”

“ MY BELIEF IS THAT GOD WILL SEND YOU SOMEWHERE ELSE, BUT NOT ACTUALLY TO HELL. ”

BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

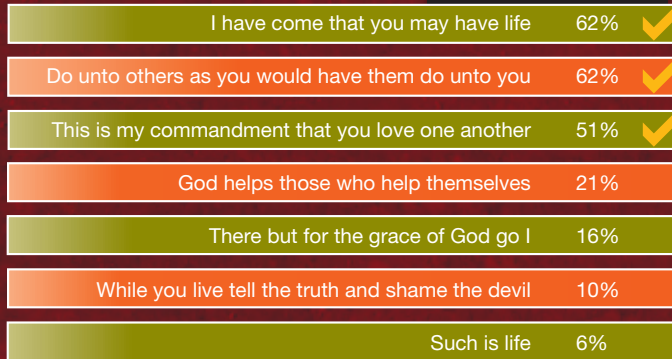
SIGNIFICANT BELIEF IN JESUS



Q: Was Jesus a real person from history?

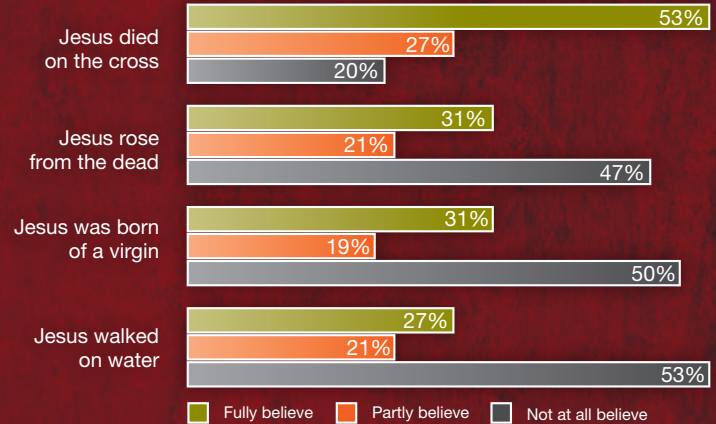
SURPRISING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS' MESSAGES

Quote Jesus said?



Q: Which of the following statements can be accurately attributed to Jesus?

REASONABLE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MIRACULOUS



Legend: Fully believe (Green), Partly believe (Orange), Not at all believe (Grey)

Q: To what extent do you believe the following?

WHEN DID JESUS LIVE?

