

Faith and belief in Australia



[The Faith and Belief in Australia Report](#) is being launched today. A survey of 1,024 Australians shows that religion in Australia is not dead.

Two in three identify with a religion or spirituality

More than two in three Australians (68%) follow a religion or have spiritual beliefs. Of those that do, almost half (47%) remain committed to the religion of their upbringing. The number of Australians who do not identify with a religion or spiritual belief, however, is on the rise with almost one in three (32%) not identifying with a religion. This study replicated the ABS Census question, but added in an option for 'spiritual but not religious'. This had a response rate of 14% among Australians nationally, and the Christianity grouping was 45% (down from 61% in the 2011 Census).

More than half of Australians (52%) are open to changing their religious views given the

right circumstances and evidence. Younger Australians are more open to changing their current religious views than older generations.

Religion and spirituality a popular topic of conversation

When gathering with friends, more than half of Australians (55%) often or occasionally talk about religion or spirituality. Generation Z (65%) are the most comfortable talking the topic, while the Baby Boomers are the least with 51% never talking about it with their friends.

A genuine faith the greatest attraction to a religion or spirituality

Observing people with genuine faith is the greatest attraction to investigating spirituality. Second is experiencing personal trauma or a significant life change. On the inverse, the top repellent to Australians investigating is public figures or celebrities who are examples of that faith. This is followed by miraculous stories of healings or supernatural occurrences.

Perceptions of Christianity

Australians most value Christian organisations for their work with those in need, specifically looking after people who are homeless, offering financial assistance/food relief programs and providing disaster relief (74%, 72% and 69% respectively). 8% of Australian adults (1.5 million) do not know any Christians, while for Generation Y this is almost one in ten. One in 29 Australians have never heard of Jesus.

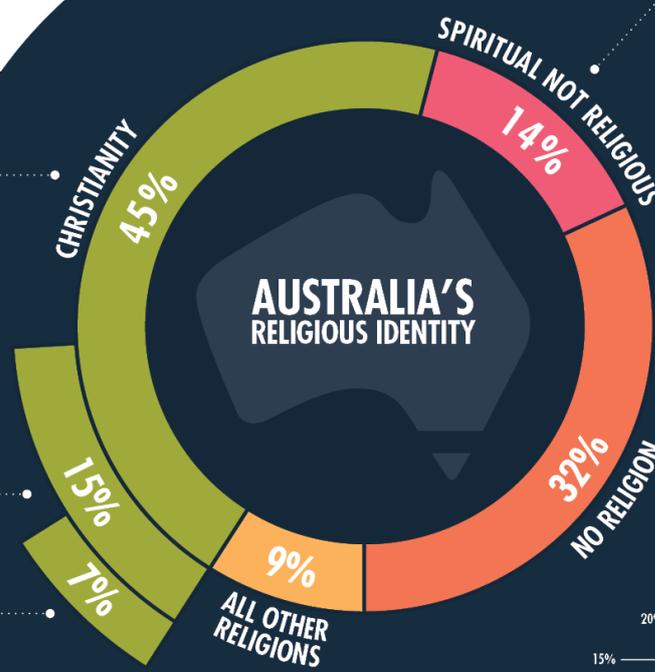
[Download the full report here.](#)

Full report at faithandbelief.org.au

FAITH & BELIEF IN AUSTRALIA DEFINED

AUSTRALIA'S RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

- CHRISTIANITY**
Less Spirituality
- CHURCH GOER**
At least monthly
- ACTIVE PRACTISERS**
Extremely involved



WHAT DO THE SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS BELIEVE? (TOP 3)

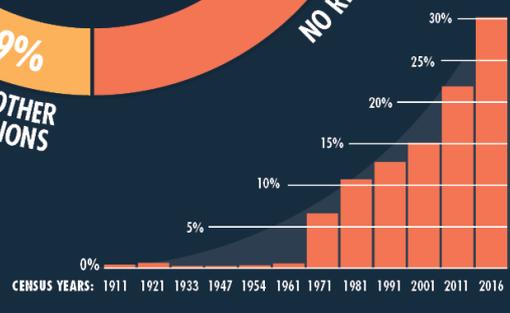
- 1 'There is an ultimate purpose and meaning' **36%**
- 2 Inward journey of self-discovery **26%**
- 3 Mixture of religious beliefs **22%**

WHY NO RELIGION? (TOP 3)

- 1 Prefer science and 'evidence-based' approach **49%**
- 2 'Religion is a crutch for the weak' **18%**
- 3 'Religion is outdated & traditional' **14%**

2016 CENSUS RESULTS

52.1%	30.1%	2.6%	2.4%	3.2%	9.6%
CHRISTIANITY	NO RELIGION	ISLAM	BUDDHISM	OTHER	NOT STATED



AUSTRALIANS IDENTIFYING WITH NO RELIGION IS GROWING

From 0.4% in 1911 to 30.1% in 2016

THE JOURNEY TO (AND FROM) BELIEF



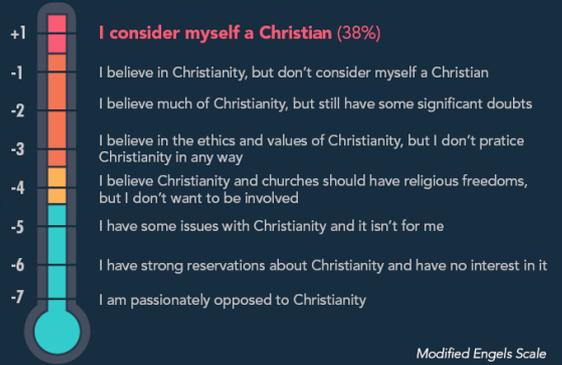
AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

Almost 1 in 4 warm (24%)

1 in 8 neutral (12%)

1 in 4 cool (26%)

“Religion gives hope but causes friction.”



Modified Engels Scale

GREATEST INFLUENCES ON OPINIONS OF CHRISTIANS & CHRISTIANITY



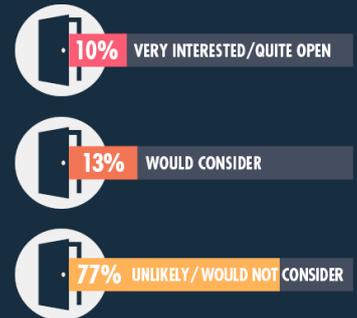
GEN Z EST. 1995 Internet & social is #3 for Gen Z (24% compared to 14% overall)

OUTGROWING RELIGION?

Analysis of all 'religious' and 'spiritual but not religious' (n=669)



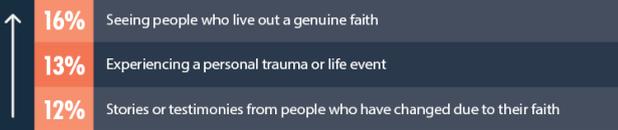
NON-CHRISTIANS' OPENNESS TO EXPLORING RELIGION (n=565)



EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY

TOP ATTRACTORS TO RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

(% who are strongly attracted)



TOP REPELLENTS TO RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

(% who are strongly repelled)



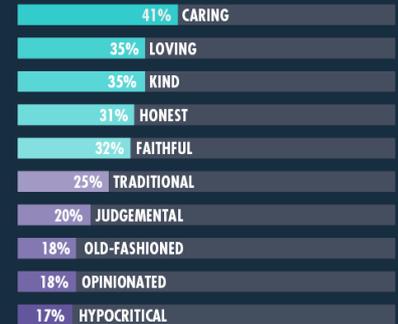
Almost 1.5 million Australian adults do not know any Christians (8%)



Almost 1 in 10 Gen Y do not know any Christians

TOP 10 PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS

92% of Australians know at least one Christian (n=932). They see Christians as:



BELIEF BLOCKERS

ISSUE BLOCKERS

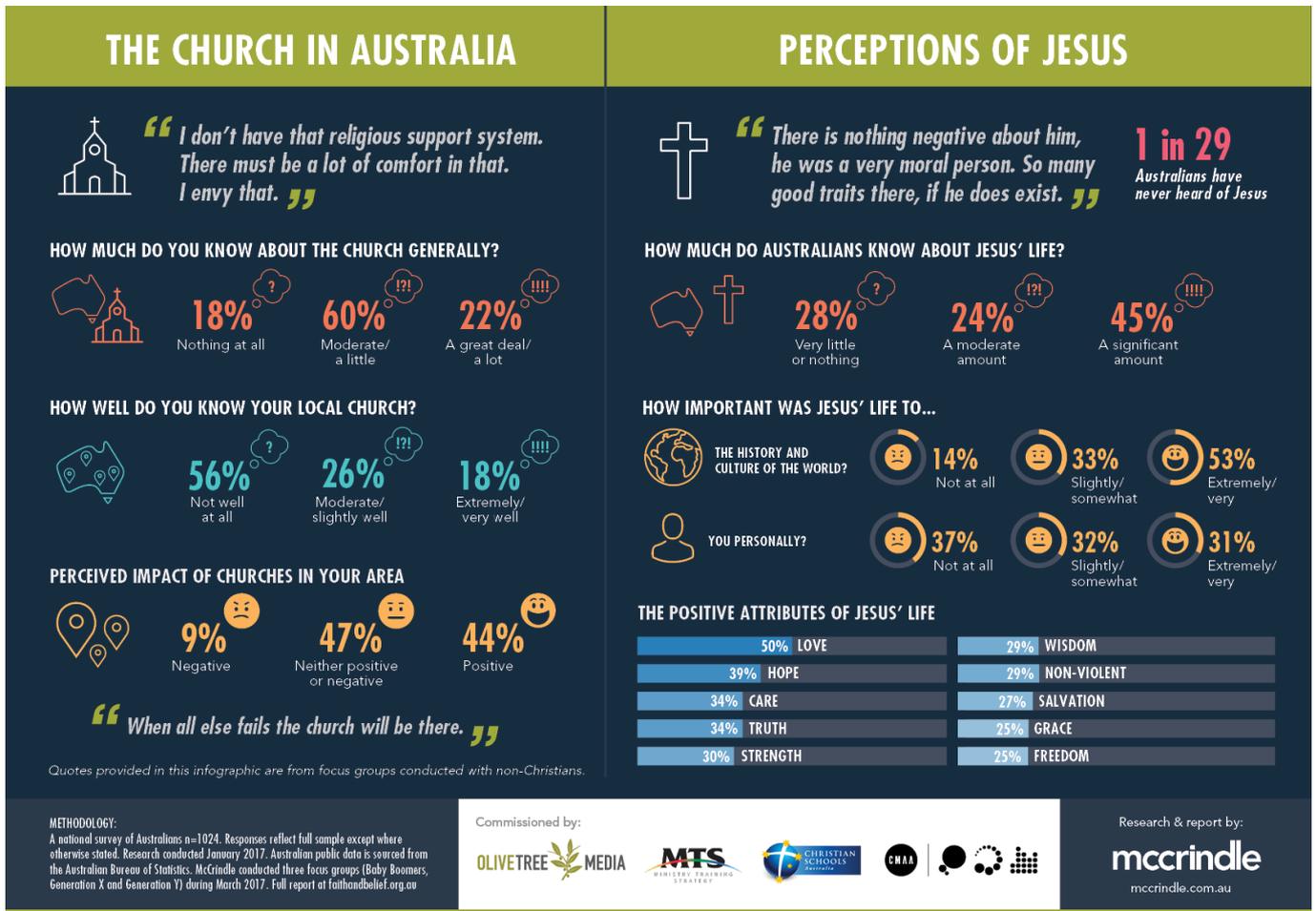
Issues that are most likely to prevent 'Non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (n=266) (% Block completely)



TOP 5 BEHAVIOUR BLOCKERS

Behaviours that are most likely to prevent 'Non Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (n=266) (% Massive negative influence)





Find Out More

For more on understanding the emerging trends within Australian community groups and the not-for-profit sector head to Australian Communities, where you can download our full report [here](#).

Contact

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