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?

Religious identity, but less activity.

Q: How active are you in practicing your religion?

Mainstream Christians are both more active and less active.

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

Never been religious: 24%
Not now religious: 29%
Synthesizer: 11% (Set of beliefs not fitting any one religion)
Adopter: 4% (Non-religious prior to choosing current religion)
Converter: 5% (Switched from a different religion)
Continuer: 27% (Committed to religion brought up in)

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”

3% Extremely open
4% Significantly open
10% Somewhat open
31% Slightly open
51% 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

Parents & family: 67%
Mass media & social media: 25%
Networks & relationships: 24%
Other: 23%
Books & articles: 20%

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

Religious conversations: not routine, but not taboo

Yes - often: 7%
Yes - occasionally: 46%
No - never: 47%

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

Significant “warmth” towards Christianity

“Cool”

4% I’m passionately opposed
13% Strong reservations
11% Some issues with Christianity
...but should have religious freedoms
13% I believe in the ethics & values of...
15% I believe much of Christianity, but...
5% I believe in Christianity, but don’t consider myself a Christian
5% I consider myself a Christian 33%

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

Modified Engel Scale

-7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1

Q: What best describes your current beliefs & attitudes towards Christianity?
My belief is that God will send you somewhere else, but not actually to hell.

They should put a message across that they’re not going to bash people over the head for not coming in ten years.
Beliefs about Jesus

Significant belief in Jesus

- Jesus was an ordinary man - without divine powers: 42%
- Had divine powers but not the Son of God: 35%
- Had divine powers & was the Son of God: 17%
- Did not exist: 4%

Q: Was Jesus a real person from history?

Surprising knowledge of Jesus’ messages

- I have come that you may have life: 62%
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you: 60%
- This is my commandment that you love one another: 51%
- God helps those who help themselves: 21%
- There but for the grace of God go I: 16%
- While you live tell the truth and shame the devil: 10%
- Such is life: 6%

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

Reasonable acceptance of the miraculous

- Jesus died on the cross: 53%
- Jesus rose from the dead: 45%
- Jesus was born of a virgin: 50%
- Jesus walked on water: 53%

Q: To what extent do you believe the following?

When did Jesus live?

- In ancient times (BC): 27%
- 1st Century (1-100AD): 40%
- 2nd Century (101-200AD): 1%
- Between 200 & 1000AD: 1%
- After 1000AD: 0%
- No idea: 28%