

# ATTITUDES TOWARDS GOD AND CHURCH THIS EASTER

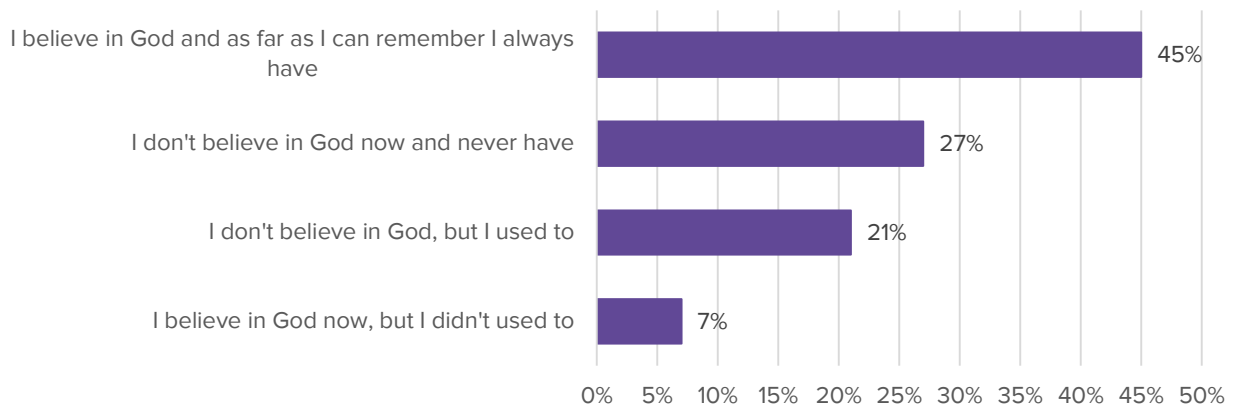
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015** – Each year Easter provides an opportunity for Australians to not just consume copious amounts of chocolate but also to reflect on the Christian meaning of this national holiday.



In the lead up to Easter we surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,015 Australians to gage their attitudes and sentiments surrounding their belief in God and intentions to attend church this Easter.

## Over half of Australians believe God exists

**Q. If God is defined as the Creator of the universe, the supreme Being, then which of the following best summarises your belief or non-belief in God?**

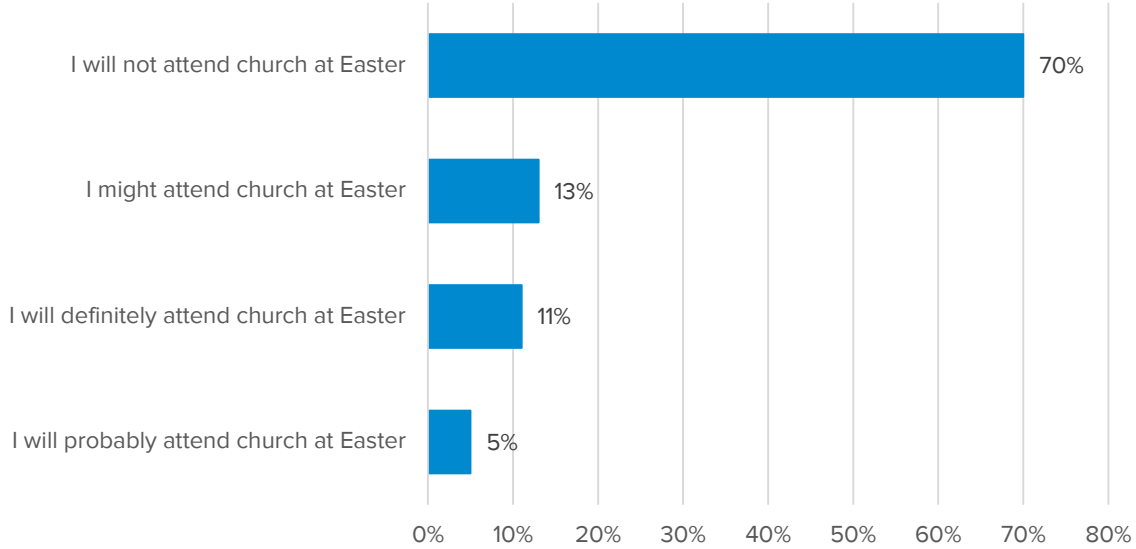


Just over half (52%) of Australian’s believe that God exists as the creator of the universe and Supreme Being. These findings have yielded similar results to the same question asked to the Australian public 6 years ago (from the 2009 Survey of Australian Attitudes conducted by the Australian National University) in which 54% identified they have a belief in God.

	2015	2009
I believe in God and as far as I can remember I always have	45%	49%
I don't believe in God now and never have	27%	26%
I don't believe in God, but I used to	21%	20%
I believe in God now, but I didn't used to	7%	5%

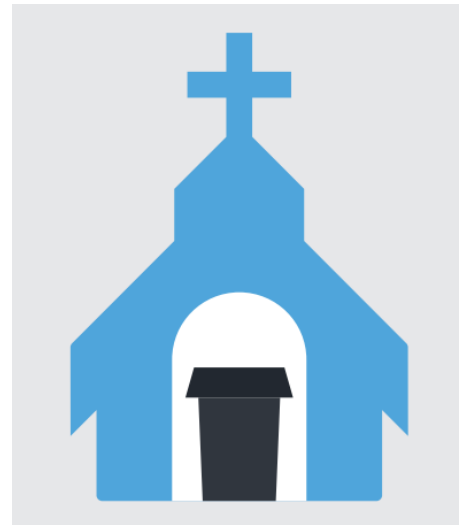
## Church attendance set to double at Easter

**Q. How likely will you be to attend church over the upcoming Easter weekend?**



Whilst 15% of Australians regularly attend church (at least once a month, according to NCLS data), this is anticipated to double at Easter with around 1 in 3 Australians (30%) indicating they will attend church at Easter this year.

National Church Life Survey data shows that over the last four decades the proportion of Australians attending church at least once per month has more than halved from 36% (1972) to 15% currently. However this is still a significant proportion of the Australian population and indeed twice as many Australians attend church at least once per month (3.495m) as attend all AFL, NRL, A League and Super Rugby games combined per month (1.684m) during the football season.



## Christianity still Australia’s largest religion

The number of Australians identifying with Christianity is more than 24 times larger than the numbers identifying with the second largest religion in Australia, Buddhism (2.5%). Indeed, the proportion of Australians identifying with Christianity as their religion is more than eight times larger than Australians identifying with all other religions combined (7.3%).

## Media Contact

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## Respondent Demographics

	This survey #	This survey %	National % of population aged 18+
<b>GENDER</b>			
<i>Male</i>	504	50%	50%
<i>Female</i>	511	50%	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>AGE</b>			
<b>18-20</b>	41	4%	GEN Z 5%
<b>21-35</b>	283	28%	GEN Y 28%
<b>36-50</b>	253	25%	GEN X 26%
<b>51-69</b>	306	30%	BOOMERS 28%
<b>70+</b>	132	13%	BUILDERS 13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>STATE</b>			
<b>NSW</b>	328	32%	32%
<b>VIC</b>	256	25%	25%
<b>QLD</b>	204	20%	20%
<b>SA</b>	71	7%	7%
<b>WA</b>	103	10%	11%
<b>TAS</b>	25	2%	2%
<b>NT</b>	11	1%	1%
<b>ACT</b>	17	2%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>