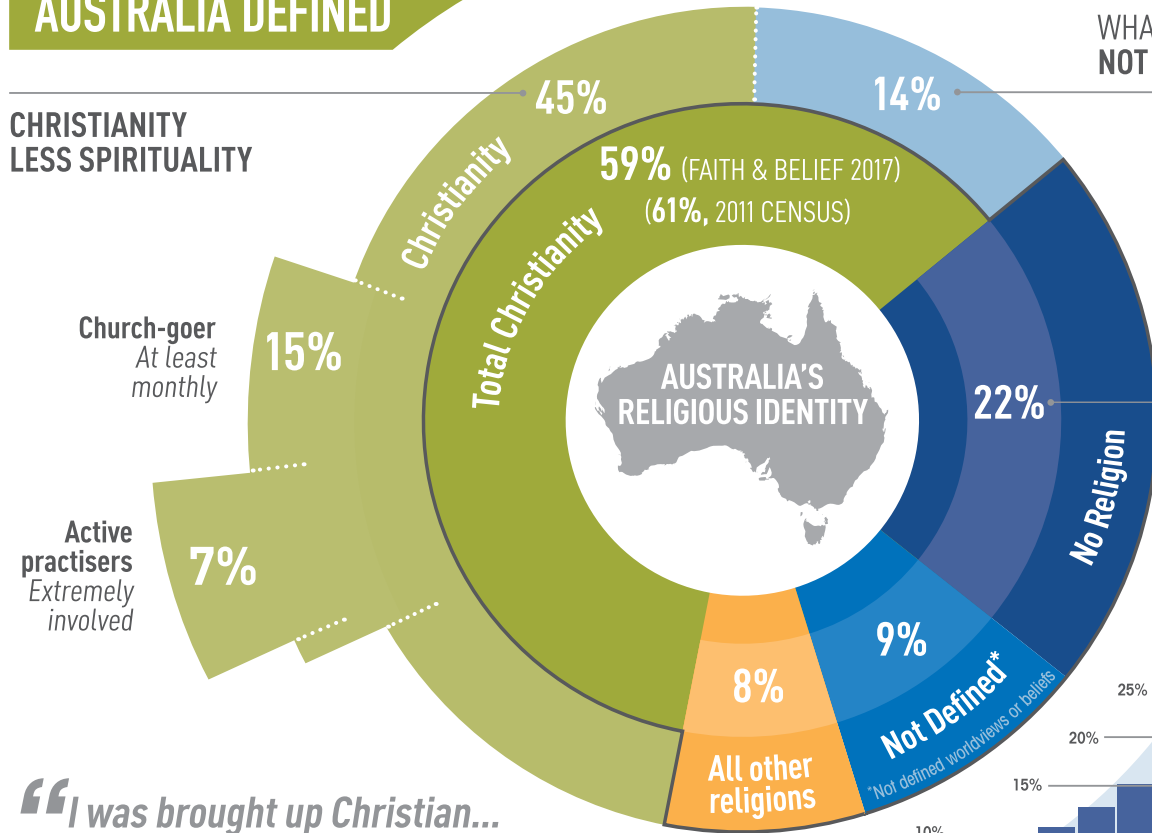


# FAITH AND BELIEF IN AUSTRALIA DEFINED

## CHRISTIANITY LESS SPIRITUALITY



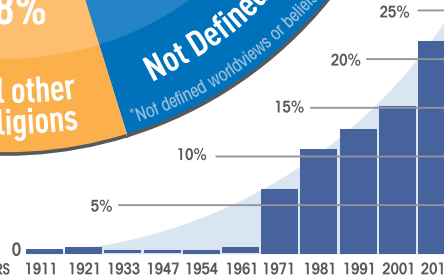
## WHAT DO THE SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS\* BELIEVE? (TOP 3)

- 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 **49%**
- 2 'Religion is a crutch for the weak' **18%**
- 3 'Religion is outdated and traditional' **14%**

*“I was brought up Christian... I just don't identify with a religion anymore.”*



## AUSTRALIANS IDENTIFYING WITH NO RELIGION IS GROWING

From 0.4% in 1911 to 22% in 2011

\*When given a 'spiritual but not religious' option, 14% of 'Total Christianity' moves to this new category.

# THE JOURNEY TO (AND FROM) BELIEF



**55%** of Australians talk about spirituality or religion at least occasionally



## AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

1 in 4 warm (24%)

1 in 8 neutral (12%)

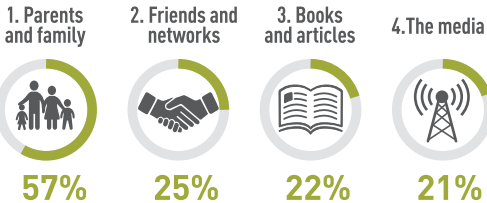
1 in 4 cool (26%)

*“Religion gives hope but causes friction.”*



Modified Enget Scale

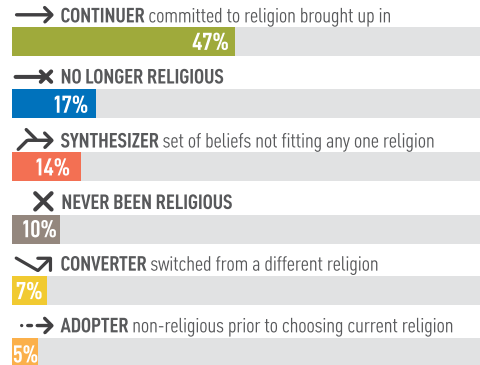
## GREATEST INFLUENCES ON OPINIONS OF CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANITY



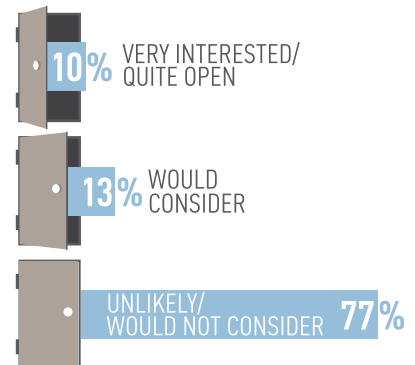
Internet and social is #3 for Gen Z (24% compared to 14% overall)

## OUTGROWING RELIGION?

Analysis of all 'religious' and 'spiritual but not religious'



## NON-CHRISTIANS' OPENNESS TO EXPLORING RELIGION



# PERCEPTIONS OF RELIGION AND CHRISTIANITY

## TOP ATTRACTORS TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

(strongly attract)

- 16% Seeing people who live out a genuine faith
- 13% Experiencing a personal trauma or life event
- 12% Stories or testimonies from people who have changed due to their faith

## TOP REPELLENTS TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

(strongly repel)

- 19% Philosophical discussion and debating ideas
- 26% Miraculous stories
- 27% Hearing from public figures and celebrities who are examples of that faith



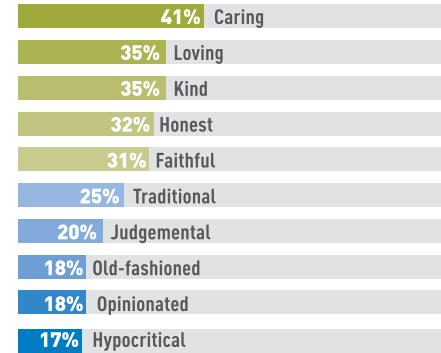
Almost 1.5 million Australian adults do not know any Christians (8%)



Almost 1 in 10 Gen Y do not know any Christians

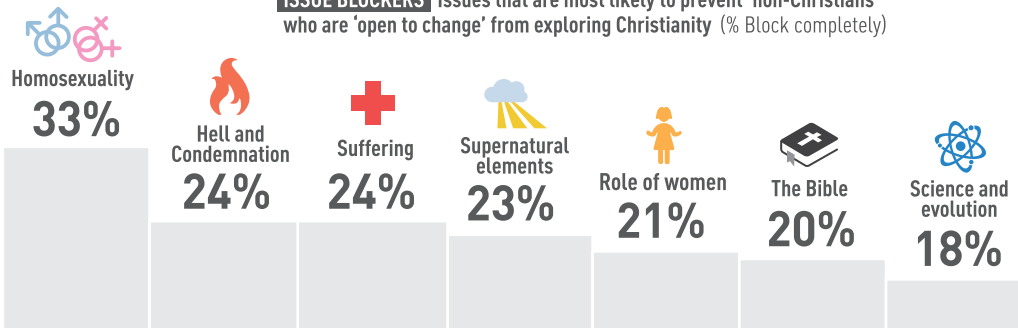
## TOP 10 PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS

92% of Australians know at least one Christian. They see Christians as:

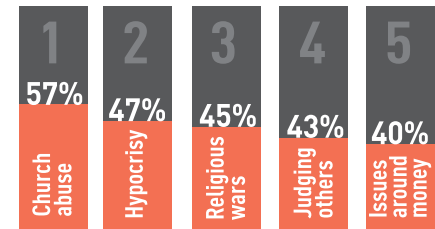


## BELIEF BLOCKERS

**ISSUE BLOCKERS** Issues that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Block completely)



**TOP 5 BEHAVIOUR BLOCKERS** Behaviours that are most likely to prevent 'non-Christians' who are 'open to change' from exploring Christianity (% Massive negative influence)



# THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

# PERCEPTIONS OF JESUS



**“I don't have that religious support system. There must be a lot of comfort in that. I envy that.”**

## HOW MUCH DO AUSTRALIANS KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH GENERALLY?



## HOW WELL DO AUSTRALIANS KNOW THE CHURCH LOCALLY?



## PERCEIVED IMPACT OF CHURCHES IN THEIR AREA



**“When all else fails the church will be there.”**

Quotes provided in this infographic are from focus groups conducted with non-Christians.

### METHODOLOGY:

A national survey of Australians n=1024. Research conducted January 2017. Australian public data is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. McCrindle conducted three focus groups (Baby Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y) during March 2017. Full report at [faithandbelief.org.au](http://faithandbelief.org.au)

Commissioned by:



Research and report by:



**“There is nothing negative about him, he was a very moral person. So many good traits there, if he does exist.”**

**1 in 29**  
Australians have never heard of Jesus

## HOW MUCH DO AUSTRALIANS KNOW ABOUT JESUS' LIFE?



## HOW IMPORTANT WAS/IS JESUS' LIFE TO...



THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE WORLD?



14%

Not at all



33%

Slightly/somewhat



53%

Extremely/very



YOU PERSONALLY?



37%

Not at all



32%

Slightly/somewhat



31%

Extremely/very

## THE POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS' LIFE

50%	Love	29%	Wisdom
39%	Hope	29%	Non-violent
34%	Care	27%	Salvation
34%	Truth	25%	Grace
30%	Strength	25%	Freedom