

Part Three: From Religious Diversity to Multi-Faith Society

Overall Trends in Postmodern Australia

The following table summarises the religious adherence of Australians over the last twenty five years. It uses census figures from the last six census surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Religious Diversity in Australia - Census Statistics							
Religious Affiliation Total Number of People		1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Christianity	Anglican	3,903,300	3,881,200	3,718,300	3,680,000	3,101,200	2,496,273
	Baptist	295,200	309,200	316,700	352,500	352,600	347,334
	Catholic	4,799,000	5,001,600	5,126,900	5,439,200	5,291,800	5,075,907
	Eastern Orthodox	497,000	529,400	544,200	563,100	493,700	535,470
	Lutheran	249,989	250,400	251,100	251,900	164,600	145,868
	Pentecostal	174,700	194,600	219,700	238,000	258,600	255,838
	Presbyterian and Reformed	657,500	637,500	596,700	599,500	540,700	414,882
	Uniting	1,334,900	1,248,700	1,135,400	1,065,800	869,700	673,260

	Other Christian	653,100	711,700	776,900	960,700	1,128,700	1,203,985
	SUBTOTAL	12,582,800	12,764,300	12,685,800	13,150,600	12,201,600	11,148,817
	Buddhism	199,800	357,800	418,800	529,000	562,200	615,823
	Hinduism	67,300	95,500	148,100	275,500	445,100	684,002
	Islam	200,900	281,600	340,400	476,300	609,000	813,392
	Judaism	79,800	84,000	88,800	97,300	93,700	99,956
	Other Religious Affiliation	122,800	444,500	242,800	168,200	210,800	325,421
	SUBTOTAL	670,600	1,263,400	1,238,900	1,546,300	1,920,200	2,538,594
	No Religion	2,948,900	2,906,000	3,706,600	4,796,800	7,040,700	9,767,448
	Not Stated / inadequately described	1,550,600	1,835,600	2,224,000	2,014,000	2,246,800	1,848,428
	Other Secular Beliefs						119,515
	SUBTOTAL	499,500	4,741,600	5,930,600	6,810,800	9,287,500	11,735,391
	TOTAL	17,752,800	18,769,200	19,855,300	21,507,700	23,409,900	25,422,802

Religious Affiliation Percentage of Population		1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Christianity	Anglican	22.0	20.7	18.7	17.1	13.3	9.8
	Baptist	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4
	Catholic	27.0	26.6	25.8	25.3	22.6	20.0
	Eastern Orthodox	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.1	2.2
	Lutheran	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.6
	Pentecostal	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
	Presbyterian and Reformed	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.3	1.6
	Uniting	7.5	6.7	5.7	5.0	3.7	2.6
	Other Christian	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.7
SUBTOTAL		70.9	67.9	64.2	61.2	52.1	43.9
Buddhism		1.1	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4
Hinduism		0.4	0.5	0.7	1.3	1.9	2.7
Islam		1.1	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.6	3.2
Judaism		0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4

Other Religious Affiliation	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	2.3
SUBTOTAL	3.4	4.8	5.4	7.4	8.2	10.0
No Religion	16.6	15.5	18.7	22.3	30.1	38.4
Not Stated / Inadequately Described	9.0	11.7	11.2	9.4	9.6	7.3
Other Secular Beliefs						0.4
SUBTOTAL	25.6	27.2	29.9	31.7	39.7	46.1
TOTAL						100.0

- ABS data available on request
1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 Census of Population and Housing