



R E L I G I O N IN AUSTRALIA

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 30 JUNE 1986

CENSUS 86 — RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA

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FOREWORD

Censuses of Population and Housing are the only comprehensive sources of information on the religious affiliation of Australia's people. A question on religion has been included in every national census taken in Australia and it has always been the only census question which is voluntary. However there have been changes to the instructions relating to the question which have led to changes in the ways people have answered it. These changes should be kept in mind when comparing census data on religion over time.

At the 1986 Census, there were over 1,500 different responses given to the religion question and these were coded into 27 categories. A full list of these responses and the categories to which they were coded is available, free of charge, from ABS Bookshops.

One of the main reasons for the wide variety of religions followed in Australia today is Australia's immigrant history. Prior to World War II, the population was almost entirely Anglo-Celtic and the religious affiliations reflected this. Following World War II increasing numbers of non-British European migrants settled and from the mid 1960s non-European migration increased. Both these changes had a large impact on the religions followed in Australia as each of the different migrant groups brought with them, and maintained, some of their original culture, including their religions. For this reason, a large proportion of this report is devoted to an examination of religious adherents by birthplace and, for the Australian-born, by ancestry reported. An understanding of the cultural origins of the different religious groups helps to explain many of the differences found between them: where they lived, their age and sex structure, and their participation in education and the labour force.

Preliminary work on the report was undertaken in the Tasmanian Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and it was completed in Central Office by members of the Social Analysis and Reporting Sub-section.

Ian Castles

Australian Statistician

January 1991

HISTORICAL TRENDS

The religion question

A voluntary question on religious affiliation has been included in every national census taken in Australia. In the first two national censuses (1911 and 1921), the voluntary nature of the question was not referred to on the census form but there were instructions indicating that people could write 'object to state'. From the 1933 Census onwards, it has been specifically stated on the census form that there is no legal obligation to answer the religion question. At the 1933 Census, 13 per cent of people did not answer the question compared to 2 per cent at the 1921 Census. In 1971, the instruction 'If no religion, write None' was introduced with the result that 7 per cent of people reported having have no religion in 1971 compared to less than 1 per cent in the entire preceding period.

Long term decline in Christian adherence

At the first national census held in 1911, 96 per cent of the population stated a Christian religion. In 1933 this fell to 86 per cent with the introduction of the instruction stating the voluntary nature of the religion question. In each census from 1933 up to and including 1971, the proportion of people stating a Christian religion varied between 86 per cent and 89 per cent. At the 1976 Census the proportion fell below 80 per cent for the first time, and fell further in 1981 and 1986 to 76 per cent and 73 per cent respectively. In 1986, 11.4 million people stated that they were Christians.

... and in Anglican adherence

In 1986, 24 per cent of the population (3.7 million people) were Anglicans, the lowest proportion ever recorded. The proportion of people responding Anglican to the religion question has been declining steadily since 1921 when it was 44 per cent.

TABLE 1.1 MAJOR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS: CENSUS YEARS

Census year	Anglican (CatholicC	Other hristian C	Total hristian C	Non- hristian f	No Religion	Not Stated O	ther(a)	Total
				— per	cent —				'000
1911	38.4	22.4	35.1	95.9	0.8	0.4	(b)2.7	0.2	4,455.0
1921	43.7	21.7	31.6	96.9	0.7	0.5	(b)1.7	0.2	5,435.7
1933	38.7	19.6	28.1	86.4	0.4	0.2	12.8	0.1	6,629.8
1947	39.0	20.9	28.1	88.0	0.5	0.3	10.9	0.2	7.579.4
1954	37.9	22.9	28.5	89.4	0.6	0.3	9.5	0.2	8.986.5
1961	34.9	24.9	28.4	88.3	0.7	0.4	10.5	0.2	10,508.2
1966	33.5	26.2	28.5	88.2	0.7	0.8	10.0	0.3	11.599.5
1971	31.0	27.0	28.2	86.2	0.8	6.7	6.1	0.2	12,755.6
1976	27.7	25.7	25.2	78.6	1.0	8.3	11.8	0.4	13,548.4
1981	26.1	26.0	24.3	76.4	1.4	10.8	10.9	0.5	14.576.3
1986	23.9	26.0	23.0	73.0	2.0	12.7	11.9	0.4	15,602.2

⁽a) Comprises non-theistic affiliation and religion inadequately described. (b) Includes object to state.

Source: Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 30th June 1947, Vol 1, Parts I-XVI (1911-1947), Census of Population and Housing, 30th June 1966, Vol I, Part 7 (1954-1966), Summary of Population, Australia (Ref. No. 2.83.9) (1971), Population and Dwellings Census Summary Tables (Cat. No. 2417.0) (1976), Census 1986 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings (Cat. No. 2487.0) (1981-1986)

Variation in Catholic adherence

The proportion of the population who were Catholic has varied in each census. In 1911, 22 per cent of people were Catholics, falling to 20 per cent in 1933 and then steadily increasing to 27 per cent in 1971. The proportion has remained at 26 per cent for the last three censuses.

... more Catholics than Anglicans in 1986

Between 1976 and 1986 the number of Anglicans declined by nearly 30,000 while the number of Catholics increased by 580,000 to 4.1 million, resulting in Catholics becoming the largest religious group in Australia. Part of this increase can be attributed to recent overseas migration since over 220,000 Catholics counted on census night had arrived after 1976 (see Section 3).

TABLE 1.2 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: 1976 AND 1986

	1:	976	19	86
Religion	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent
Christian				
Catholic(a)	3,482.8	25.7	4,064.4	26.1
Anglican	3,752.2	27.7	3,723.4	23.9
Uniting(b)	_	_	1,182.3	7.6
Methodist - incl Wesleyan(c)	983.2	7.3	n.a.	n.a.
Presbyterian and Reformed	900.0	6.6	560.0	3.6
Orthodox	372.2	2.7	427.4	2.7
Lutheran	191.5	1.4	208.3	1.3
Baptist	174.2	1.3	196.8	1.3
Pentecostal	38.4	0.3	107.0	0.7
Churches of Christ	86.9	0.6	88.5	0.6
Salvation Army	63.3	0.5	77.8	0.5
Jehovah's Witness	41.4	0.3	66.5	0.4
Seventh Day Adventist	41.5	0.3	48.0	0.3
Latter Day Saints/Mormons	n.a.	n.a.	35.5	0.2
Brethren	20.7	0.2	23,2	0.1
Congregational	53.4	0.4	16.6	0.1
Oriental Christian(d)	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	0.1
Other Protestant n.e.i.	206.2	1.5	199.4	1.3
Christian n.e.i.	236.9	1.7	346.4	2.2
Total	10,644.9	78.6	11,381.9	73.0
Non-Christian				
Muslim	45.2	0.3	109.5	0.7
Buddhist	n.a.	n.a.	80.4	0.5
Jewish	53.4	0.4	69.1	0.4
Hindu	n.a.	n.a.	21.5	0.1
Other non-Christian n.e.i.	30.4	0.2	35.7	0.2
Total	129.1	1.0	316.2	2.0
Other				
Non-theistic	n.a.	n.a.	4.9	_
Inadequately described	51.3	0.4	58.0	0.4
No religion (so described)	1,130.3	8.3	1,977.5	12.7
Not stated	1,593.0	11.8	1,863.6	11.9
Total	13,548.4	100.0	15,602.2	100.0

(a) Roman Catholic and Catholic (non-Roman). (b) The Uniting Church was formed in 1977 from the Methodist, Congregational and part of the Presbyterian churches. (c) People who responded Methodist in 1986 were coded to Uniting. (d) Includes Armenian, Assyrian, Coptic and Syrian denominations.

Source: Population and Dwellings: Summary Tables, Table 11 (1976), CSD006 (1986)

Recent growth in non-Christian religions

Until the 1976 Census, less than 1 per cent of the population reported a non-Christian religion. In 1976, 1 per cent of people were adherents to non-Christian religions and this had grown to 2 per cent (316,000 people) by 1986. The number of people who stated a non-Christian religious affiliation increased by 187,000 or almost 150 per cent between 1976 and 1986. While up to 70 per cent of this increase is attributable to immigration in the last 10 years, adherence to non-Christian religions among those already living in Australia increased by at least 60,000, of whom 28,000 were Muslims. A further 36,000 Muslims, mainly from the Middle East, arrived in Australia between 1976 and 1986 (see Section 3). While Buddhists were not separately identified in the 1976 census, their numbers have more than doubled since 1981, reaching 80,000 in 1986.

People with no religion

Before 1971, when the instruction indicating that 'no religion' was an acceptable response was first introduced, less than 1 per cent of people stated that they had no religion. In 1971, 7 per cent of people stated that they had no religion and this has increased at each successive census, offsetting the decline in the proportion of adherents to Christian denominations. In 1986, nearly 2 million people (13 per cent) stated that they had no religion, an increase of 75 per cent since 1976. In both censuses more men than women reported having no religion, but the increase for women was larger, 80 per cent compared to 71 per cent for men.

Religion not stated

Since 1933, when the instructions were changed to state explicitly the voluntary nature of the religion question, around 10 per cent of the population have not stated their religion. With the second instruction change in 1971, there was a sudden drop to 6 per cent, possibly indicating that until then some people with no religion had opted not to answer the question rather than to write no religion. Since 1971, the proportion of people not answering the question has reverted to around 10 per cent.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

States and Territories ... variation in Christian adherence

... differences between Catholic and Anglican affiliation

At the 1986 Census, people in New South Wales had the highest adherence to Christianity, with 77 per cent of that State's population stating a Christian religion. In comparison, 69 per cent of Victoria's population stated a Christian religion, the lowest of any State. The Northern Territory was markedly different with only 57 per cent of its population being Christian.

The proportion of each State's population who were Catholic or Anglican varied considerably. In New South Wales the proportion stating Catholic and that stating Anglican was the same, 28 per cent. In Victoria, 28 per cent were Catholic compared to 18 per cent Anglican. Almost one-third of the population of the Australian Capital Territory were Catholic while a little more than a fifth were Anglican. On the other hand, over one-third of Tasmanians were Anglican while less than a fifth were Catholic, reflecting the relatively small number of recent migrants settling in Tasmania.

TABLE 2.1 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: STATES AND TERRITORIES

Religion	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
				-	– per cen	it —			
Christian									
Catholic	28.3	27.5	24.3	19.8	24.7	18.4	20.6	30.1	26.1
Anglican	28.1	17.8	24.8	18.0	26.4	35.5	15.3	22.0	23.9
Uniting Presbyterian	6.1	7.0	9.9	13.1	5.9	8.4	6.2	5.3	7.6
and Reformed		3.4	4.6	1.4	2.2	2.8	1.9	3.6	3.6
Orthodox	3.1	4.4	0.8	2.8	1.2	0.4	2.1	2.2	2.7
Lutheran	0.6	0.9	2.2	4.8	0.6	0.4	2.8	1.4	1.3
Baptist	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.3	0.9	1.3
Pentecostal	0.4	0.5	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.7
Other	4.9	6.3	6.1	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.3	4.9	5.8
Total	77.0	68.8	75.5	69.6	69.5	74.4	<i>57.3</i>	71.0	73.0
Non-Christian									
Muslim	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7
Buddhist	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.5
Jewish	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	_	0.1	0.2	0.4
Other	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	5.0	0.5	0.4
Total	2.6	2.6	0.7	1.0	1.6	0.5	5.9	2.0	2.0
No religion	10.0	13.9	11.7	16.9	16.7	11.0	18.1	15.7	12.7
Not stated	10.1	14.3	11.7	12.1	11.7	13.6	18.2	10.8	11.9
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
					- '000 -	-			
Total	5,401.9	4,019.5	2,587.3	1,345.9	1,406.9	436.4	154.8	249.4	15,602.2

Source: CSD006

... Orthodox in Victoria, Lutherans in South Australia Forty-two per cent of all Orthodox adherents lived in Victoria, accounting for 4 per cent of the State's population and reflecting the relatively large settlement of Greek migrants in Victoria. Similarly, reflecting German immigration to South Australia, 31 per cent of all Lutherans lived in that State and represented 5 per cent of its population (see Section 3).

... adherents to non-Christian religions in New South Wales and Victoria

... Northern Territory had highest proportion of followers of non-Christian religions

... many people reported no religion in the Northern Territory and South Australia

Urban-rural distribution ... considerable variation among Christian religions

... people of non-Christian religions highly urbanised

In both New South Wales and Victoria, 3 per cent of the population adhered to non-Christian religions. Seventy-eight per cent of all those reporting a non-Christian religion lived in either New South Wales or Victoria, compared to 60 per cent of the total population. This concentration was even more apparent for Muslims, with 87 per cent of Muslims living in New South Wales or Victoria, indicative of the settlement of recent migrants.

Six per cent of the Northern Territory population reported a non-Christian religion reflecting, in part, the high proportion of the Northern Territory's population who were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin and who had a higher representation adhering to non-Christian religions (see Section 3).

In the Northern Territory, 18 per cent of the population reported no religion, while in South Australia the proportion was 17 per cent. New South Wales had the lowest proportion reporting no religion (10 per cent) complementing the high proportion of Christians.

The distributions of individual Christian denominations between urban and rural areas varied. Lutherans were the most highly concentrated in rural areas (27 per cent of them lived in rural areas). In addition, a disproportionate number of those affiliated with the Uniting denomination (21 per cent) and the Presbyterian and Reformed denomination (17 per cent) lived in rural areas, compared to 15 per cent of the total population. By contrast, 97 per cent of Orthodox adherents were urban dwellers.

For the major non-Christian religious groups, over 90 per cent of adherents lived in urban areas, largely a result of the settlement patterns of recent migrants in urban areas.

TABLE 2.2 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: URBAN AND RURAL DISTRIBUTION

Religion	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
		— per cent —		,000
Christian				
Catholic	88.2	11.8	100.0	4,064.4
Anglican	84.4	15.6	100.0	3,723.4
Uniting	79.4	20.6	100.0	1,182.3
Presbyterian				·
and Reformed	82.6	17.4	100.0	560.0
Orthodox	97.3	2.7	100.0	427.4
Lutheran	73.1	26.9	100.0	208.3
Baptist	85.7	14.3	100.0	196.8
Pentecostal	83.7	16.3	100.0	107.0
Other	84.6	15.4	100.0	912.2
Total	85.4	14.6	100.0	11,381.9
Non-Christian				
Muslim	97.7	2.3	100.0	109.5
Buddhist	96.8	3.2	100.0	80.4
Jewish	98.0	2.0	100.0	69.1
Hindu	93.8	6.2	100.0	21.5
Other	67.0	33.0	100.0	35.7
Total	93.8	6.2	100.0	316.2
No religion	85.5	14.5	100.0	1,977.5
Not stated	83.3	16.7	100.0	1,863.6
Other	82.2	17.8	100.0	62.9
Total	85.4	14.6	100.0	15,602.2

Source: CSD006

BIRTHPLACE AND ANCESTRY

Overseas-born

Overall, 21 per cent of Australians counted at the 1986 Census had been born overseas but there was a great deal of variation between the different religious groups. Almost two-thirds of Oriental Christians (who include adherents to Armenian, Assyrian, Coptic and Syrian denominations) and people who followed non-Christian religions had been born overseas and over half of the Orthodox adherents had been. Less than one-tenth of adherents to the Salvation Army, the Churches of Christ and the Uniting denomination had been born overseas.

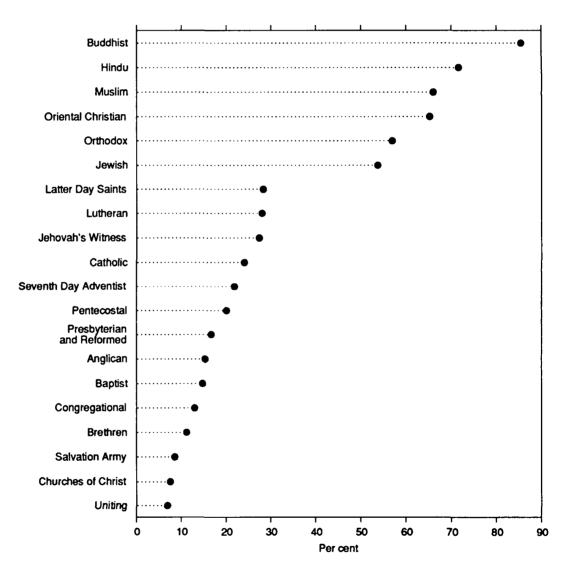


FIGURE 3.1 RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS: PER CENT BORN OVERSEAS

Source: CX0003

... Catholics the largest group

In 1986, the largest overseas-born religious group in Australia was Catholics with almost 1 million adherents. Catholics also had the greatest variety of birthplaces with 22 countries each providing at least 1 per cent of Australia's overseas-born Catholics. Almost one-quarter of overseas-born Catholics had been born in Italy, which was 3 times the proportion of Italian-born people in Australia's overseas-born population.

TABLE 3.1 OVERSEAS-BORN CATHOLICS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Country of birth	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
	238.0	24.4	3.03
England	89.4	9.2	0.34
Yugoslavia	69.3	7.1	1.54
Malta	50.8	5.2	3.01
Poland	47.9	4.9	2.36
Ireland	35.7	3.7	1.70
Germany	32.0	3.3	0.93
Netherlands	31.8	3.3	1.11
New Zealand	31.0	3.2	0.49
Philippines	28.0	2.9	2.76
Lebanon	21.4	2.2	1.27
India	20.6	2.1	1.44
Scotland	20.5	2.1	0.46
Other	257.6	26.4	••
Total	974.1	100.0	••

(a) The number of people in a particular religious group born in a country as a proportion of all overseas-born people in that religious group, divided by the proportion of all overseas-born people who had been born in that country. A value less than 1 indicates that the birthplace group was relatively under-represented among adherents to the religion while a value greater than 1 indicates relative over-representation.

Source: CX0003

There was a striking relationship between birthplace and religion among many of the religious groups, reflecting in general the strong geographical association with religion. For example, while almost three-quarters of overseas-born Anglicans had been born in England only 27 per cent of overseas-born people had been, a relative representation of 2.75. The representation of people born in Greece among Orhodox adherents was over 12 with more than half of overseas-born adherents to the Orthodox denomination having been born in Greece.

TABLE 3.2 OVERSEAS-BORN ADHERENTS TO THE ANGLICAN AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Country of birth	'000	Per cent	Relative
Country of birth		Per cent	representation
Anglican	·		-
England	423.3	74.6	2.75
New Zealand	44.9	7.9	1.21
Scotland	11.9	2.1	0.46
Other	87.4	15.4	••
Total	567.5	100.0	••
Orthodox			
Greece	124.5	51.8	12.21
Yugoslavia	54.1	22.5	4.87
Cyprus	17.2	7.2	9.83
USSR	8.8	3.7	2.60
Egypt	8.5	3.5	3.73
Lebanon	5.7	2.4	1.37
China	4.9	2.0	1.78
Other	16.9	7.0	••
Total	240.5	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

... Anglicans from England, Orthodox from Greece

... Lutherans from Northern Europe, Oriental Christians from the Middle East¹ Two other Christian religious groups showed a very strong regional association in the birthplaces of their adherents. Lutherans came mainly from Germany, USSR and Scandinavia with relative representations of over 13. Oriental Christians came mainly from Egypt and the Middle East with particularly high relative representations of Iraqis, Syrians and Iranians.

TABLE 3.3 OVERSEAS-BORN LUTHERANS AND ORIENTAL CHRISTIANS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Country of birth	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
Lutheran			
Germany	26.8	46.3	13.09
USSR	10.7	18.4	13.06
Finland	5.2	8.9	31.82
Denmark	2.2	3.8	14.16
USA	1.4	2.4	1.84
Sweden	1.3	2.2	13.72
England	1.2	2.0	0.07
Other	9.3	16.1	••
Total	58.0	100.0	••
Oriental Christian			
Egypt	2.3	34.5	36.59
Iraq	1.1	16.1	115.76
lran e	0.6	9.4	40.68
Lebanon	0.6	8.8	5.05
Turkey	0.6	8.6	11.35
Syria	0.4	5.2	44.07
Other	1.2	17.4	••
Total	6.7	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

... other Christians from English-speaking countries

With the exception of Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists, more than half of the overseas-born adherents of all other Christian denominations had been born in one of the main English-speaking countries, the majority of them in the UK or Ireland. In this grouping, the dominant birthpace was England except among Presbyterians, 46 per cent of whom had been born in Scotland. For Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists, the proportions born in English-speaking countries were 41 per cent and 39 per cent respectively.

TABLE 3.4 OVERSEAS-BORN ADHERENTS OF OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
Country of birth		Per cent	representation
Presbyterian and Reformed			
Scotland	42.4	45.5	9.92
New Zealand	16.3	17.6	2.69
Netherlands	8.8	9.5	3.23
England	8.2	8.8	0.33
Ireland Other	4.5 12.9	4.8	2.23
Other	12.9	13.8	••
Total	93.1	100.0	
Uniting			
England	34.3	42.4	1.56
New Zealand	8.9	11.0	1.68
Scotland	7.9	9.7	2.12
Netherlands	3.6	4.4	1.52
Ireland	2.7	3.3	1.55
South Africa	2.6	3.3	2.87
Papua New Guinea	2.1	2.6	3.99
USA Wales	2.0	2.4	1.87 2.75
11.77	1.9	2.3	
Fiji Toogs	1.8	2.2	4.90
Tonga Other	1.6 11.5	2.0 14.2	14.79
Total	80.8	100.0	••
			•
Baptist	40.0		4.05
England	10.6	36.7	1.35
New Zealand	2.6	9.0	1.38
Scotland	1.8	6.2	1.36
USA Wales	1.6	5.4 4.4	4.11
Netherlands	1.3 1.0	3.4	5.23 1.16
Ireland	0.7	2.5	1.17
South Africa	0.6	2.1	1.86
Papua New Guinea	0.6	2.0	3.07
Other	8.2	28.3	0.07
Total	29.0	100.0	
Pentecostal			
England	6.4	29.6	1.09
New Zealand	2.9	13.6	2.09
Netherlands	1.1	5.3	1.81
Italy	0.9	4.0	0.49
Scotland	0.8	3.6	0.79
South Africa	0.7	3.2	2.84
Germany	0.6	3.0	0.84
Other	8.1	37.6	••
Total	21.5	100.0	
Jehovah's Witnesses			
England	4.6	25.5	0.94
Italy	2.0	11.1	1.38
New Zealand	1.6	8.6	1.32
Germany	1.2	6.5	1.85
Greece	0.9	4.9	1.16
Yugoslavia	0.8	4.5	0.98
Netherlands	0.7	4.1	1.40
Scotland	0.5	3.0	0.65
Other	5.7	31.6	••

TABLE 3.4 OVERSEAS-BORN ADHERENTS OF OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(8) - continued

Religion and Country of birth	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
Seventh Day Adventist			
New Zealand	1.7	16.6	2.54
England	1.5	14.1	0.52
Yugoslavia	1.1	10.1	2.18
Poland Chile	0.7	6.6	3.15
Papua New Guinea	0.4 0.3	3.4 3.1	5.83 4.64
Other	4.8	46.3	4.04
Total	10.5	100.0	••
Latter Day Saints			
New Zealand	3.2	31.7	4.86
England	2.4	23.5	0.87
USA	0.8	8.3	6.36
Scotland	0.4	3.8	0.83
Other	3.3	32.7	••
Total	10.0	100.0	••
Churches of Christ			
England	2.7	40.7	1.50
New Zealand	0.6	9.1	1.39
Philippines	0.4	6.7	6.46
Scotland	0.4	6.0	1.31
Netherlands	0.3	4.4	1.51
USA Other	0.3 1.9	4.4 28.7	3.35
Total	6.7	100.0	
Salvation Army			
England	3.5	52.2	1.92
New Zealand	1.0	14.9	2.29
Scotland	0.6	9.4	2.05
Netherlands	0.3	4.4	1.50
Other	1.3	19.1	••
Total	6.7	100.0	••
Brethren	0.0	00.7	4.04
England New Zealand	0.8	32.7	1.21
Scotland	0.5 0.3	17.4 12.7	2.67 2.77
Ireland	0.3	7.4	3.44
South Africa	0.1	4.7	4.09
Other	0.7	25.1	4.03
Total	2.6	100.0	••
Congregational			
England	0.9	43.0	1.59
Western Samoa	0.2	9.1	99.37
Scotland	0.2	8.2	1.79
New Zealand	0.2	7.8	1.19
Wales	0.1	6.8	8.17
Other	0.5	25.0	••
Total	2.1	100.0	••

⁽a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

... missionary activity in Oceania

Possibly as a result of missionary activities undertaken in Oceania, especially the Pacific Islands, high relative representations of adherents to Uniting and Congregational denominations and to Seventh Day Adventists and Latter Day Saints, were observed for people born in this region. Among overseas-born adherents to the Uniting/Congregational denomination, 3 per cent had been born in Papua New Guinea, a relative representation of 4. Another 2 per cent had been born in Fiji (relative representation of 5) and a further 2 per cent in Tonga (relative representation of 14). Similarly, 3 per cent of overseas-born Seventh Day Adventists had been born in each of Papua New Guinea and Fiji (relative representations of 5 and 6 respectively). Although the numbers of Latter Day Saints were much smaller, a similar pattern emerged with, for example, 3 per cent of overseas-born adherents born in Tonga, a relative representation of 20.

TABLE 3.5 ADHERENTS TO SELECTED RELIGIONS BORN IN OCEANIA(a): PER CENT OF ADHERENTS AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(b)

	Per	cent of adhe	erents	Relative representation		
Country of birth	Uniting/ Congre- gational	Seventh Day Adventist	Latter Day Saints	Uniting/ Congre- gational	Seventh Day Adventist	Latter Day Saints
Cook Is.	0.1	1.4	0.9	1.48	30.95	20.77
Fiji	2.2	2.9	0.5	4.79	6.36	1.19
Nauru	0.1	(c)	(c)	3.88	(c)	(c)
Norfolk Is.	0.1	(c)	(c)	3.04	(c)	(c)
Papua New Guinea	2.6	3.1	(c)	3.94	4.64	(c)
Solomon Is.	0.1	0.5	(c)	2.09	15.94	(c)
Tonga	2.0	1.5	2.8	14.45	10.83	20.12
Vanuatu	0.1	(c)	(c)	2.49	(c)	(c)
Western Samoa	0.6	1.6	1.5	6.56	17.81	16.45
Other	0.2	1.3	1.4	••	••	••
Total	7.9	12.3	7.2	4.87	7.55	4.43

(a) Excluding Australia and New Zealand. (b) See footnote to Table 3.1. (c) Included in Other.

Source: CX 0003

... Muslims from the Middle East, Buddhists from South-East Asia Muslims were the largest non-Christian religious group in Australia and 71,000, or two-thirds of them, had been born overseas. More than half of these overseas-born Muslims had been born in Lebanon or Turkey with a further 7 per cent born in Yugoslavia and 5 per cent born in Cyprus. Overall, Middle Eastern birthplaces accounted for 63 per cent of overseas-born Muslims. A similar regional concentration was observed among the 80,000 Buddhists in Australia, 85 per cent of whom had been born overseas. Over 80 per cent of the overseas-born Buddhists had been born in South-East Asian countries. By far the largest group of Buddhists had been born in Vietnam (45 per cent of overseas-born Buddhists) but the highest relative representations were among those Buddhists born in Laos, Thailand or Kampuchea.

TABLE 3.6 OVERSEAS-BORN MUSLIMS AND BUDDHISTS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Country of birth	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
Muslim			
Lebanon	20.1	28.3	16.32
Turkey	18.7	26.3	34.88
Yugoslavia	4.6	6.5	1.41
Cyprus	3.8	5.4	7.37
Malaysia	2.9	4.1	2.78
Indonesia	2.6	3.7	6.80
Egypt	1.8	2.5	2.66
Fiji	1.4	2.0	4.30
Other	15.0	21.2	••
Total	71.0	100.0	••
Buddhist			
Vietnam	30.5	44.8	17.53
Kampuchea	7.3	10.7	26.26
Malaysia	6.2	9.2	6.22
Laos	5.2	7.6	33.33
Thailand	4.0	5.8	26.98
China	3.4	5.0	4.32
Japan	2.5	3.7	10.75
Sri Lanka	1.8	2.6	3.78
Other	7.2	10.6	•
Total	68.0	100.0	••

⁽a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Just over half of the people of Jewish religion had been born overseas with two-thirds of them born in Europe. Of particular note are the high relative representations of Jewish people born in Poland, USSR, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Romania (all over 5). Nearly 60 per cent of these European-born Jews had been resident in Australia for 30 years or more, indicative of the relatively high level of Jewish immigration from Europe in the years immediately preceding and following World War II. On the other hand, over 60 per cent of Jews born in Africa or the Middle East had been resident in Australia for less than 20 years.

TABLE 3.7 OVERSEAS-BORN JEWS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Country of birth	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
Poland	6.7	18.2	8.72
England	4.5	12.2	0.45
USSR	3.9	10.6	7.50
South Africa	3.4	9.3	8.17
Israel	2.7	7.5	34.58
Hungary	2.4	6.6	7.92
Germany	2.4	6.4	1.81
Austria	1.3	3.7	5.26
Czechoslovakia	1.2	3.3	6.02
USA	1.2	3.2	2.47
Romania	0.9	2.5	9.89
Egypt	0.8	2.1	2.24
Other	5.3	14.4	
Total	36.7	100.0	••

⁽a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

... Jews from Europe

... Hindus from India and Fiji

The smallest non-Christian religious group identified at the 1986 Census was Hindu with 21,000 adherents, 72 per cent of whom had been born overseas. Over half of them had been born in either India or Fiji.

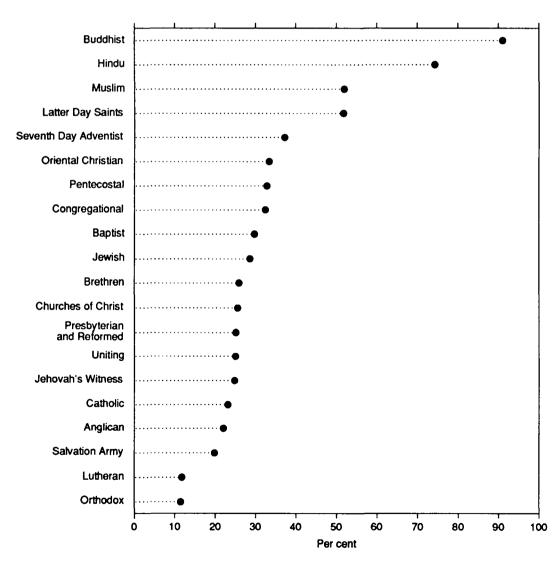
TABLE 3.8 OVERSEAS-BORN HINDUS: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(s)

Country of birth	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
India	5.4	35.7	24.23
Fiji	3.3	21.5	47.26
Sri Lanka	1.7	11.0	15.86
Malaysia	1.1	7.1	4.83
England	0.7	4.3	0.16
South Africa	0.6	3.8	3.37
New Zealand	0.4	2.5	0.38
Other	2.1	14.1	••
Total	15.2	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

FIGURE 3.2 OVERSEAS-BORN RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS: PER CENT WHO ARRIVED BETWEEN 1977 AND 1986



Source: CX7081H

... most adherents to non-Christian religions are recent immigrants

... immigration of Christians from Asia

The changing sources of immigration have had a major impact on the religious composition of Australia's people. Since the mid-1960s when Australia started to accept many more non-European migrants, the numbers of people adhering to religions associated with non-European regions have increased substantially. Between 1967 and 1976, 52 per cent of the overseas-born Oriental Christians and 43 per cent of the overseas-born Muslims arrived in Australia, and the succeeding decade saw 91 per cent of the overseas-born Buddhists, 74 per cent of the overseas-born Hindus and 52 per cent of the overseas-born Muslims arrive. This contrasted strongly with the patterns of earlier periods. For example, between 1948 and 1956, 43 per cent of the overseas-born Lutherans and 27 per cent of the overseas-born Jews settled in Australia, while between 1957 and 1966, 33 per cent of the overseas-born Orthodox adherents arrived.

The changed sources of immigration have also had a marked impact on the relativities of the different Christian denominations, particularly Anglicans and Catholics. Between 1977 and 1986, 220,000 Catholics arrived in Australia compared to 122,000 Anglicans. Among the Catholic settlers, 33 per cent had been born in Asia, a marked contrast with earlier Catholic settlers 83 per cent of whom had been born in Europe. Among Anglican settlers, those born in UK and Ireland remained by far the largest group.

TABLE 3.9 PEOPLE BORN OVERSEAS: SELECTED RELIGIONS BY BIRTHPLACE AND PERIOD OF ARRIVAL

			Birt	hplace			
Religion	UK and Ireland	Other Europe	Asia(a)	America	Africa	Oceania	Total
			— ре	r cent —			,000
Arrived 1977-1986	3						
Christian							
Catholic	13.8	25.8	32.9	10.8	4.9	11.8	220.5
Anglican	63.5	1.3	4.4	2.3	5.9	22.5	122.2
Orthodox	1.5	62.4	31.2	0.9	2.9	1.2	26.9
Presbyterian							
and Reformed	29.6	4.9	4.6	3.5	6.3	51.1	22.8
Uniting	25.5	2.0	11.8	7.9	10.7	41.9	19.8
•	20.0	2.0		7.0	10.7	41.5	13.0
Non-Christian							
Buddhist	0.5	0.3	98.2	0.3	0.1	0.7	60.8
Muslim	0.9	4.8	82.4	0.5	6.0	5.3	35.8
Hindu	3.0	0.8	60.5	0.9	7.7	27.1	11.1
Jewish	10.3	31.1	14.4	9.8	31.5	2.9	10.3
No Religion	18.9	10.1	40.0	5.1	2.1	23.8	179.2
Arrived before 197	77						
Christian							
Catholic	15.7	66.9	8.5	3.1	3.5	2.3	728.9
Anglican	84.7	3.1	4.2	1.3	1.6	5.1	431.9
Orthodox	0.4	83.9	11.4	0.2	4.0	0.1	206.0
Presbyterian	0.4	00.0		U.L	4.0	V. 1	200.0
and Reformed	69.7	15.8	3.5	1.8	1.1	8.1	67.9
Uniting	68.6	9.7	5.4	3.3	2.4	10.7	59.1
Non-Christian							
Buddhist	13.1	5.0	76.8	1.8	0.7	26	6.0
Muslim	1.2	14.0	78.1	0.2		2.6	
****					4.8	1.7	33.3
Hindu	11.1	4.8	60.7	1.6	6.6	15.2	3.8
Jewish	15.4	64.2	11.3	2.6	5.2	1.4	25.6
No Religion	52.9	26.0	8.3	4.0	1.9	6.8	261.0

⁽a) Includes Middle East (Western Asia).

Source: CX7081H

... people who reported 'no religion'

Of overseas-born people who stated that they had no religion, the largest groups had been born in England (32 per cent), New Zealand (13 per cent), Vietnam or the Netherlands (both 6 per cent). There was no particular regional pattern evident and, apart from people born in China, Hong Kong or the rest of Eastern Asia, the relative representation was generally less than 2.

TABLE 3.10 OVERSEAS-BORN PEOPLE WHO REPORTED NO RELIGION:
MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Country of birth	·000	Per cent	Relative representation
England	142.2	31.6	1.17
New Zealand	56.2	12.5	1.92
Vietnam	25.3	5.6	2.20
Netherlands	24.9	5.5	1.89
Scotland	22.9	5.1	1.11
Germany	18.5	4.1	1.17
China	16.8	3.7	3.24
Hong Kong	14.5	3.2	3.71
Malaysia	10.3	2.3	1.55
USA	9.0	2.0	1.54
Other	108.9	24.2	
Total	449.6	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

... people who did not state their religion

Since religion was a voluntary question, the number of people who did not answer it, for whatever reason, was quite high (293,000 or 9 per cent of all overseas-born people). As with people who stated no religion, there was no particular regional pattern evident.

TABLE 3.11 OVERSEAS-BORN PEOPLE WHO DID NOT STATE RELIGION: MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Country of birth	· 000	Per cent	Relative representation
England	102.5	35.0	1,29
New Zealand	25.8	8.8	1.35
Scotland	18.0	6.2	1.34
Germany	14.2	4.9	1.37
Netherlands	11.4	3.9	1.33
Italy	10.9	3.7	0.46
Yugoslavia	7.4	2.5	0.55
Ireland	6.8	2.3	1.08
Vietnam	6.1	2.1	0.82
USA	5.8	2.0	1.51
Greece	5.7	2.0	0.46
Other	77.8	26.6	••
Total	292.6	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.1.

Source: CX0003

Australian-born

... Anglicans the largest group

The pattern of religious adherence among the Australian-born differed from that of the overseas-born with 75 per cent being Christian compared to 70 per cent of the overseas-born. When examined by ancestry, a similar pattern to the birthplace distribution of overseas-born religious adherents emerged.

The largest Australian-born religious group was Anglican with just over 3.1 million adherents or 26 per cent of the Australian-born population. More than half of these Anglicans stated English ancestry, reflecting Australia's long history of British migration. Almost a quarter stated Australian ancestry. Among the 3.1 million Catholics, 51 per cent stated English or Australian ancestry, 7 per cent Italian and 7 per cent Irish. Similar to the large number of birthplaces stated by overseas-born Catholics, Australian-born Catholics stated a large number of specific ancestries, but only 9 each represented more than 1 per cent of all Australian-born Catholics.

TABLE 3.12 AUSTRALIAN-BORN ANGLICANS AND CATHOLICS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Ancestry	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
Anglican		-	
English	1,596.4	50.8	1.34
Australian	743.2	23.7	0.99
Australian-English	63.1	2.0	1.29
Other	737.9	23.5	••
Total	3,140.6	100.0	
Catholic			
English	800.7	26.1	0.69
Australian	750.7	24.5	1.03
Italian	214.7	7.0	3.52
Irish	212.6	6.9	2.75
English-Irish	125.4	4.1	2.05
Other	962.8	31.4	••
Total	3,066.8	100.0	••

⁽a) The number of Australian-born people in a particular religious group who stated an ancestry as a proportion of all Australian-born people in that religious group, divided by the proportion of all Australian-born people who stated that ancestry. A value less than 1 indicates that the ancestry group was relatively under-represented among adherents to the religion while a value greater than 1 indicates relative over-representation.

Source: CX2456

... Orthodox of Greek ancestry, Lutherans of German ancestry Over 60 per cent of Australian-born adherents to Orthodox denominations stated Greek ancestry while 5 per cent each stated Yugoslavian or Macedonian ancestry. Less than 4 per cent stated Australian ancestry, the smallest proportion of any religious group, Christian or non-Christian, to do so. Among Lutherans, 28 per cent stated German ancestry and 24 per cent stated Australian ancestry. Four per cent of Lutherans were of Aboriginal ancestry, a relative representation of 3, reflecting past Lutheran missionary activity in the Northern Territory.

TABLE 3.13 AUSTRALIAN-BORN ADHERENTS TO THE ORTHODOX AND LUTHERAN DENOMINATIONS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Ancestry	·000	Per cent	Relative representation
Orthodox			
Greek	115.4	63.4	57.75
Yugoslavian	9.5	5.2	19.55
Macedonian	9.5	5.2	57.88
Australian	6.7	3.7	0.15
Other	40.8	22.4	••
Total	181.9	100.0	••
Lutheran			
German	41.3	27.7	24.37
Australian	35.9	24.1	1.01
English	19.7	13.2	0.35
English-German	7.6	5.1	5.61
Aboriginal	5.6	3.8	3.00
Other	38.8	26.1	••
Total	149.0	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX 2456

... Oriental Christians the smallest group

There were fewer than 3,600 Australian-born Oriental Christians, by far the smallest religious group identified. Eighteen per cent of them reported being of Armenian ancestry and 13 per cent were of Egyptian ancestry. Although small, this group was unusual in that more than 20 per cent of them reported being of an ancestry other than one of the 100 most common ones in Australia (which accounted for 96 per cent of the Australian-born population). Given that 61 per cent of Australian-born Oriental Christians were less than 15 years old (see Figure 3.3), it is likely that they were the children of overseas-born Oriental Christians and that many belonged to one of the smaller Middle Eastern ancestry groups.

TABLE 3.14 AUSTRALIAN-BORN ORIENTAL CHRISTIANS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Ancestry	· 000	Per cent	Relative representation
Armenian	0.6	17.9	798.69
English	0.5	15.0	0.39
Egyptian	0.5	13.3	568,50
Australian	0.4	12.6	0.53
Other	1.5	41.2	••
Total	3.6	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX2456

... most other Christians of English or Australian ancestry Over 50 per cent of Australian-born adherents to all other Christian denominations reported either English or Australian ancestry. Other British ancestries or Australian-British combinations accounted for most of the rest of them. People stating Aboriginal ancestry made up 5 per cent of Brethren and Seventh Day Adventists, 4 per cent of adherents to a Pentecostal denomination, 4 per cent of adherents to the Churches of Christ and 2 per cent of Baptists. Four per cent of Jehovah's Witnesses stated Italian ancestry and 3 per cent of Pentecostals stated German ancestry.

TABLE 3.15 AUSTRALIAN-BORN ADHERENTS TO OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONAL GROUPINGS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

		<u>, </u>	
Religion and	2000	Day sout	Relative
Ancestry	.000	Per cent	representation
Uniting			
English	546.9	49.8	1.31
Australian	262.9	23.9	1.01
Scottish British	28.0	2.5	1.45 1.24
= '' -''	23.6 22.8	2.2 2.1	1.24
English-Scottish Other	22.8 214.0	2. I 19.5	1.50
Total	1,098.2	100.0	••
	.,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Presbyterian and Reformed	400.4	40.0	
English Australian	196.1 103.7	42.2 22.3	1.11 0.94
Scottish	38.4	8.3	4.69
English-Scottish	17.0	3.7	2.65
British	13.7	2.9	1.70
Other	95.7	20.6	••
Total	464.5	100.0	••
Pantiet			
Baptist English	78.0	46.6	1.23
Australian	38.1	22.8	0.96
Aboriginal	3.9	2.3	1.83
British	3.8	2.3	1.32
Scottish	3.3	2.0	1.13
Other	40.1	24.0	••
Total	167.1	100.0	••
Pentecostal			
English	29.5	34.6	0.91
Australian	18.5	21.8	0.92
Aboriginal	3.3	3.9	3.11
German	2.6	3.1	2.72
Australian-English	1.8	2.1	1.33
Other	29.4	34.5	••
Total	85.1	100.0	••
Churches of Christ			
English	37.1	45.6	1.20
Australian	19.5	23.9	1.01
Aboriginal	3.1	3.8	3.04
Scottish	1.6	2.0	1.13
Other	20.1	24.7	••
Total	81.5	100.0	••
Salvation Army			
English	30.3	42.8	1.12
Australian	19.4	27.3	1.15
Australian-English	1.4	2.0	1.26
Other	19.8	27.9	••
Total	70.8	100.0	••
Jehovah's Witnesses			
English	17.0	35.5	0.93
Australian	10.0	20.8	0.88
Italian	1.8	3.8	1.89
Australian-English Other	1.1 18.1	2.3 37.6	1.50
Total	48.0	100.0	••
	70.0	100.0	••
Seventh Day Adventist	45.0	40.0	4.67
English Australian	15.2	40.8 20.0	1.07
Australian Aboriginal	7.8 1.8	20.9	0.88
Other	1.8 12.4	4.9 33.4	3.90
Total	37.2	100.0	
			•••

TABLE 3.15 AUSTRALIAN-BORN ADHERENTS TO OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONAL GROUPINGS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a) - continued

Religion and		_	Relative
Ancestry	.000	Per cent	representation
Latter Day Saints	-		
English	9.5	37.5	0.98
Australian	5.0	19.6	0.82
English-Scottish	0.7	2.8	2.00
Australian-English	0.7	2.7	1.74
English-Irish	0.6	2.5	1.28
British	0.6	2.4	1.40
English-German	0.5	2.2	2.36
Other	7.7	30.4	••
Total	25.3	100.0	**
Brethren			
English	10.0	48.6	1.28
Australian	4.2	20.3	0.85
Aboriginal	1.0	5.1	4.03
British	0.5	2.5	1.46
Scottish	0.5	2.4	1.34
English-Scottish	0.4	2.1	1.51
Other	3.9	19.1	••
Total	20.5	100.0	••
Congregational			
English	7.1	49.2	1.29
Australian	3.3	23.2	0.97
Scottish	0.4	2.4	1.38
British	0.3	2.2	1.24
Australian-English	0.3	2.1	1.38
Other	3.0	20.8	••
Total	14.4	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX2456

... Muslims of Middle Eastern ancestry

Over 57 per cent of Australian-born Muslims reported Lebanese, Turkish or Arab ancestry while 7 per cent stated Australian ancestry. Like Oriental Christians, a very high proportion of Australian-born Muslims were less than 15 years old and therefore were most likely the Australian-born children of recent immigrants, stating ancestry either to the countries of their parents' birth or to Australia.

TABLE 3.16 AUSTRALIAN-BORN MUSLIMS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Ancestry	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
Muslim			
Lebanese	8.8	24.1	81.89
Turkish	8.1	22.3	302.57
Arab	4.1	11.1	195.27
Australian	2.7	7.4	0.31
Yugoslavian	0.9	2.5	9.31
English	0.8	2.3	0.06
Other	11.0	30.3	••
Total	36.5	100.0	

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX2456

... Jews of Jewish ancestry

As expected, the most common ancestry stated by people of Jewish faith was Jewish, accounting for more than one-third of Australian-born Jews and with a very high relative representation. Jews stating Polish or Russian ancestry also had high relative representations. Over 20 per cent of Australian-born Jews reported being of an ancestry other than one of the 100 most common.

TABLE 3.17 AUSTRALIAN-BORN JEWS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(a)

Religion and Ancestry	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
Jewish			
Jewish	10.8	34.0	343.90
Australian	4.1	13.0	0.55
English	2.8	8.9	0.23
Polish	1.4	4.4	19.35
Russian	0.7	2.2	33.38
Other	11.9	37.5	••
Total	31.7	100.0	••

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX2456

... Buddhists of Vietnamese or Chinese ancestry, Hindus of Indian or British ancestry More than one-third of Australian-born Buddhists reported either Vietnamese or Chinese ancestry, reflecting the birthplace composition of overseas-born Buddhists. Again, it is apparent that many of them were Australian-born children of recent immigrants. Among Australian-born Hindus, 28 per cent reported Indian ancestry and 19 per cent reported English ancestry.

TABLE 3.18 AUSTRALIAN-BORN BUDDHISTS AND HINDUS: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(8)

Religion and Ancestry	.000	Per cent	Relative representation
Buddhist			-
Vietnamese	2.1	18.1	318.67
Chinese	1.9	16.2	63.60
English	1.4	12.1	0.32
Australian	1.2	10.4	0.44
Khmer	0.3	3.0	509.44
English-Irish	0.2	2.0	1.00
Other	4.4	38.1	••
Total	11.6	100.0	
Hindu			
Indian	1.7	27.7	388.62
English	1.1	18.6	0.49
Australian	0.7	12.2	0.51
English-Irish	0.2	2.9	1.44
Irish	0.2	2.6	1.05
Scottish	0.1	2.1	1.17
Other	2.0	33.9	••
Total	6.0	100.0	

(a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

Source: CX2456

... people reporting no religion

Over half of the Australian-born people who reported no religion stated English or Australian ancestries, a proportion about the same as the proportion of all Australian-born with those ancestries (relative representations of about 1). Although forming a very small proportion of Australian-born people with no religion, the relative representations of people of Chinese or Japanese ancestry were over 3, mirroring the comparatively high relative representations of people born in Eastern Asia (see Table 3.10).

TABLE 3.19 AUSTRALIAN-BORN PEOPLE REPORTING NO RELIGION: MAIN ANCESTRIES AND RELATIVE REPRESENTATION(s)

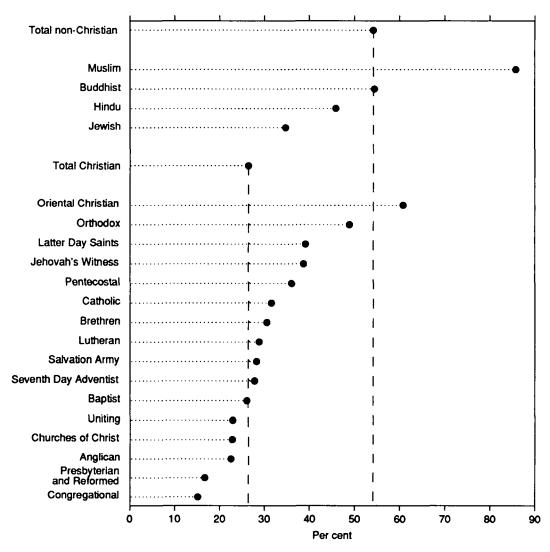
Ancestry	'000	Per cent	Relative representation
English	537.1	35.4	0.93
Australian	394.3	26.0	1.09
Scottish	33.4	2.2	1,25
Australian-English	30.3	2.0	1.28
Other	524.0	34.5	••
TOTAL	1,519.1	100.0	••

⁽a) See footnote to Table 3.12.

... children's religious adherence

Among Australian-born adherents to non-Christian religions 54 per cent were children under 15 years of age, twice the proportion among Australian-born Christians. This may have implications for the future religious composition of Australia since these Australian-born children will contribute to future generations, who may continue to adhere to the religions of their forebears.

FIGURE 3.3 AUSTRALIAN BORN RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS: PER CENT AGED 0-14 YEARS



Source: CX0003

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People ... more Anglicans than Catholics

... greater adherence to Pentecostal, Lutheran and Baptist denominations, lesser adherence to the Uniting denomination

... twice the proportion of adherents to non-Christian religions

The 1986 Census identified 227,600 people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. A smaller proportion (67 per cent) of them were Christian than that of the total population (73 per cent). Unlike the total population however, there were more Anglicans than Catholics among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. While 24 per cent of both groups were Anglican, 20 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Catholic compared to 26 per cent of the total population.

Although small numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people belonged to the Pentecostal, Lutheran and Baptist denominations, the proportions that these represented were greater than those in the total population. Less than 1 per cent of all people were affiliated with the Pentecostal Churches, while 3 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were. Similarly, 3 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Lutheran and 2 per cent were Baptist, compared to slightly more than 1 per cent of the total population belonging to each of these. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affiliated with the Uniting denomination (4 per cent) was half that of the total population.

Four per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported adherence to a non-Christian religion, compared to 2 per cent of all people. Nearly all of these (97 per cent) were coded as 'other non-Christian' which included the response 'Aboriginal'; 43 per cent of Australian-born 'other non-Christians' reported being of Aboriginal ancestry.

TABLE 3.20 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Religion	' 000 '	Per cent
Christian		
Anglican	55.4	24.3
Catholic	46.4	20.4
Uniting	9.3	4.1
Lutheran	6.2	2.7
Pentecostal	6.2	2.7
Baptist	4.9	2.1
Other	23.5	10.3
Total	151.8	66.7
Non-Christian Muslim, Buddhist		
Hindu and Jewish	0.3	0.2
Other	9.8	4.3
Total	10.1	4.4
No religion	27.5	12.1
Not stated	36.4	16.0
Other	1.8	0.8
Total	227.6	100.0

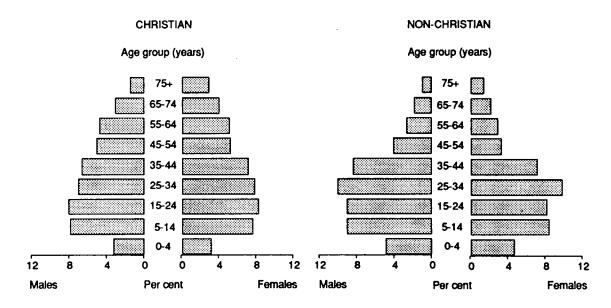
Source: CX7077B

AGE, SEX AND MARITAL STATUS

Christians older than adherents to non-Christian religions

Largely due to the fact that most adherents to non-Christian religions were recent migrants or their Australian-born children, the age profile of these non-Christians was much younger than that of Christians. Almost 45 per cent of adherents to non-Christian religions were aged less than 25 years at the 1986 Census, and 7 per cent were 65 years or older. Among Christians, 39 per cent were younger than 25 years and 12 per cent were aged 65 years or more.

FIGURE 4.1 ADHERENTS TO CHRISTIAN AND NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS:
AGE AND SEX PROFILE



Source: CX7096

Catholics younger than Anglicans The Catholic population was relatively young with 44 per cent aged less than 25 years and 9 per cent aged 65 years or more. The Orthodox population was also young, 42 per cent under 25 years and 6 per cent aged 65 years or more. In contrast, the Anglican and Uniting populations were older with 14 per cent of each aged 65 years or more. Presbyterians had the oldest profile with 18 per cent aged 65 years or more and 29 per cent under 25 years. Adherents to Pentecostal denominations had the youngest profile of all Christian groups, almost half were under 25 years of age.

Young profile of Muslims and Buddhists

Over half (55 per cent) of the Muslims were aged under 25 years, while less than 2 per cent were 65 years or more, reflecting both the recent immigration of Muslims and their relatively high rate of child bearing. Buddhists also had a young profile with 44 per cent aged under 25 years.

... and Jews much older

Twenty per cent of the Jewish population were aged 65 years or more, a result of the high rate of Jewish migration associated with World War II.

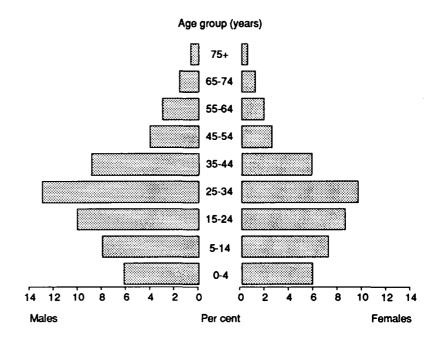
TABLE 4.1 ALL PEOPLE: RELIGION BY AGE (Per cent)

Religion			Age	(years)		· · · · · ·	
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Christian							
Catholic	7.8	17.5	18.4	28.8	19.1	8.5	100.0
Anglican	5.6	14.2	15.2	29.1	21.7	14.2	100.0
Uniting	6.4	15.4	14.8	28.5	20.5	14.4	100.0
Presbyterian							
and Reformed	3.7	10.9	14.0	28.8	24.6	18.0	100.0
Orthodox	5.8	16.5	19.5	28.5	23.7	6.0	100.0
Lutheran	6.7	14.8	15.7	28.5	22.9	11.5	100.0
Baptist	6.9	16.5	16.0	29.8	18.5	12.3	100.0
Pentecostal	10.4	20.2	18.1	32.3	14.0	5.0	100.0
Other	7.1	16.2	15.7	29.7	18.7	12.6	100.0
Total	6.6	15.7	16.5	29.0	20.5	11.8	100.0
Non-Christian							
Muslim	14.0	22.4	18.7	33.0	10.2	1.8	100.0
Buddhist	7.5	16.1	20.1	41.6	10.8	3.8	100.0
Jewish	6.1	13.1	11.2	29.4	20.2	19.9	100.0
Other	8.7	15.6	18.2	39.6	13.8	4.2	100.0
Total	9.7	17.5	17.3	<i>35.6</i>	13.2	6.7	100.0
No religion	12.2	15.3	18.8	37.6	11.8	4.2	100.0
Not stated	8.5	15.9	15.4	31.0	18.7	10.5	100.0
Other	11.4	13.2	16.8	33.6	15.9	9.1	100.0
Total	7.6	15.7	16.7	30.5	19.0	10.6	100.0

Young people more likely to have reported no religion

While 46 per cent of those reporting no religion were aged less than 25 years, only 4 per cent were aged 65 years or more, compared to 11 per cent of the total population. Of children aged 0-4 years, 20 per cent were reported as having no religion, the highest proportion for any age group. Since a parent or other responsible adult would have completed the census forms for children under 5 years old, it is likely that many of these were the children of people who reported no religion on their own census forms. It is also possible that parents considered such young children too young to have a religious affiliation and reported no religion for them.

FIGURE 4.2 PEOPLE REPORTING NO RELIGION: AGE AND SEX PROFILE



More Christian and fewer non-Christian women than men

Just over 75 per cent of women were Christians compared to 71 per cent of men. Overall, 52 per cent of Christians were women, slightly higher than the proportion of women in the total population (50 per cent). For each of the major Christian denominations, except Orthodox, there were more (both numerically and proportionally) women adherents than men. Among followers of non-Christian religions the reverse was true with 52 per cent of these non-Christians being men. Among Jewish people however, 49 per cent were men. The differences for people of Orthodox and Jewish affiliation arose largely as a result of the age structures of the two groups when compared to the overall age structures of Christians and adherents to non-Christian religions. For example, 6 per cent of people in Orthodox denominational groups compared to 12 per cent of all Christians were aged 65 years or more, an age group with a high proportion of women. Similarly, 20 per cent of adherents to the Jewish religion compared to 7 per cent of all adherents to non-Christian religions were aged 65 years or more.

Men more likely than women to have reported no religion or not to have answered the question Among men 14 per cent stated that they had no religion and 12 per cent did not answer the question while among women the proportions were both 11 per cent. Men formed 56 per cent of the people with no religion and 52 per cent of the people who did not answer the question.

TABLE 4.2 ALL PEOPLE: RELIGION BY SEX

		Men	V	Vomen	•	Total
Religion	.000	per cent	.000	per cent	,000	per cent
Christian						
Catholic	1,988.0	25.6	2,076.4	26.5	4,064.4	26.1
Anglican	1,788.9	23.0	1,934.6	24.7	3,723.4	23.9
Uniting	550.5	7.1	631.8	8.1	1,182.3	7.6
Presbyterian					•	
and Reformed	266.1	3.4	294.0	3.8	560.0	3.6
Orthodox	218.5	2.8	208.9	2.7	427.4	2.7
Lutheran	100.9	1.3	107.4	1.4	208.3	1.3
Baptist	92.3	1.2	104.5	1.3	196.8	1.3
Pentecostal	50.3	0.6	56.7	0.7	107.0	0.7
Other	430.3	5.5	481.9	6.2	912.2	5.8
Total	5,485.8	70.6	5,896.1	<i>75.3</i>	11,381.9	73.0
Non-Christian						
Muslim	58.2	0.7	51.3	0.7	109.5	0.7
Buddhist	41.8	0.5	38.6	0.5	80.4	0.5
Jewish	33.5	0.4	35.6	0.5	69.1	0.4
Other	29.8	0.4	27.4	0.3	57.2	0.4
Total	163.4	2.1	152.8	2.0	316.2	2.0
No religion	1,114.0	14.3	863.5	11.0	1,977.5	12.7
Not stated	968.9	12.5	894.7	11.4	1,863.6	11.9
Other	36.2	0.5	26.8	0.3	63.0	0.4
Total	7,768.3	100.0	7,833.8	100.0	15,602.2	100.0

Catholics more likely than other Christians to have never married

Large variations among non-Christians ... Muslims most likely to be married

Almost one-third of Catholics aged 15 years or over had never married at the time of the 1986 Census, the highest proportion of any Christian denomination. In comparison, one-quarter of Anglicans had never married. To some extent the differences in marital status reflected the age structures (younger populations generally had higher proportions of people who had never married and lower proportions of people who had been widowed), but when examined by age, Catholics were still slightly more likely than any other Christian group to have never married. For example, 60 per cent of Catholics aged 15-34 years had never married compared to 56 per cent of Anglicans and 57 per cent of all Christians.

Over two-thirds of Muslims were currently married at the 1986 Census, the highest proportion of any religious group. Once again, this figure was influenced by the young age structure but there is also evidence that Muslims marry at a much younger age than do other groups. For example, 29 per cent of Muslims aged 15-24 years were married, more than twice the proportion of married people in the total population aged 15-24 years (12 per cent). In the 25-34 year age group, 81 per cent of Muslims were married compared to 65 per cent of the total population of the same age.

Orthodox Catholic Jewish Anglican Presbyterian and Reformed Lutheran Buddhist Seventh Day Adventist **Brethren Churches of Christ** Uniting **Baptist Latter Day Saints** Salvation Army Congregational Pentecostal Oriental Christian Jehovah's Witness Hindu Muslim 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Per cent Females

FIGURE 4.3 PER CENT OF PEOPLE AGED 15-34 YEARS WHO HAD NEVER MARRIED: RELIGION BY SEX

... Buddhists most likely to have never married

Thirty-eight per cent of Buddhists had never married, compared to 28 per cent of the total population. While this is age related to some extent (61 per cent of never married Buddhists were aged 15-24 years) there were disproportionately large numbers in the older age groups who had never married. There were also disproportionately large numbers of Buddhists (both men and women) in all age groups who had been widowed. For example, 6 per cent of Buddhists aged 45-54 years and 18 per cent aged 55-64 years had been widowed compared to 3 per cent and 10 per cent respectively of the total population of the same ages. This may reflect in part the disruption and dislocation caused by the Vietnam War and subsequent migration.

O Males

... Jews most likely to be widowed

Ten per cent of Jewish people aged 15 years or more had been widowed, mainly a function of the older age profile of this group.

... most people reporting no religion not married

Of those people aged 15 years or more who reported having no religion, more than 50 per cent were not currently married; 37 per cent had never married, 11 per cent were separated or divorced and 3 per cent had been widowed. When compared to the total population, people with no religion were considerably more likely to have never married or to have separated or divorced.

TABLE 4.3 ALL PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: RELIGION BY MARITAL STATUS

Religion	•	A	Marital stat	บร			
	Never married	Married	Sep- arated	Div- orced	Wid- owed	Total	Total
			pe	rcent —			.000
Christian							
Catholic	31.3	56.5	2.4	3.9	5.9	100.0	3.038.4
Anglican	24.7	59.3	2.7	5.1	8.3	100.0	2,984.7
Uniting	23.5	62.6	1.9	3.6	8.4	100.0	924.6
Presbyterian							
and Reformed	23.2	60.5	2.3	4.6	9.5	100.0	477.9
Orthodox	27.8	64.0	1.4	2.5	4.3	100.0	332.0
Lutheran	25.1	61.2	2.3	4.5	6.9	100.0	163.5
Baptist	25.3	61.4	2.2	3.8	7.3	100.0	150.7
Pentecostal	27.4	61.5	2.4	4.4	4.2	100.0	74.2
Other	25.9	59.8	2.5	4.5	7.3	100.0	699.7
Total	27.0	59.0	2.4	4.3	7.2	100.0	8,845.7
Non-Christian							
Muslim	25.2	67.8	2.4	2.4	2.2	100.0	69.6
Buddhist	38.4	52.2	2.3	2.6	4.5	100.0	61.4
Jewish	20.8	62.1	1.8	5.0	10.3	100.0	55.8
Other	31.3	56.0	3.2	5.4	4.2	100.0	43.3
Total	28.8	60.0	2.4	3.6	5.1	100.0	230.1
No religion	36.9	49.5	3.8	6.8	2.9	100.0	1,433.0
Not stated	28.2	58.5	2.5	4.8	6.0	100.0	1,409.0
Other	38.0	44.3	4.2	8.1	5.5	100.0	47.5
Total	28.4	57.8	2.6	4.7	6.5	100.0	11,965.3

Source: CX0002

Child bearing

Among women aged 15 years or more in 1986, 31 per cent had never had children, 25 per cent had had 2 children and 7 per cent had had 5 or more children. Muslim and Buddhist women tended to have had large families with 14 per cent and 12 per cent respectively of women aged 15 years and over having had 5 or more children. Among the larger Christian groups, Catholic women had had the largest families with almost 10 per cent of them having had 5 or more children. However, more than 10 per cent of women who were adherents to the Latter Day Saints, Brethren, Jehovah's Witnesses, Salvation Army or Seventh Day Adventists had also had 5 or more children.

TABLE 4.4 WOMEN AGED 15 YEARS OR MORE: NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORNE BY RELIGION

Religion		Number of children ever borne						
	None	1	2	3	4	5 or more	Total	Total(a)
			-	- per cent	_			'000
Christian								
Catholic	32.3	11.4	21.4	16.1	9.1	9.7	100.0	1,574.9
Anglican	27.1	12.3	26.8	18.5	8.8	6.5	100.0	1,571.9
Unitina	27.0	10.7	26.5	19.7	9.7	6.4	100.0	504.7
Presbyterian								
and Reformed	27.6	11.6	26.0	18.7	9.4	6.7	100.0	253.7
Orthodox	28.9	10.8	31.6	17.9	6.3	4.4	100.0	162.6
Lutheran	28.8	12.9	25.1	17.1	8.8	7.3	100.0	85.5
Baptist	29.2	10.5	24.1	19.3	9.8	7.1	100.0	81.7
Pentecostal	29.4	10.5	22.4	18.3	10.3	9.0	100.0	40.6
Other	29.4	11.5	24.0	17.7	9.4	8.0	100.0	377.3
Total	29.2	11.6	24.7	17.8	9.0	7.6	100.0	4,652.9
Non-Christian								
Muslim	26.7	13.1	20.9	15.8	9.6	13.9	100.0	32.0
Buddhist	37.3	15.3	18.4	10.7	6.1	12.3	100.0	29.5
Jewish	26.2	17.0	34.5	16.1	4.3	1.9	100.0	29.0
Other	32.8	15.7	22.4	13.3	7.2	8.6	100.0	20.7
Total	30.4	15.2	24.2	14.1	6.8	9.3	100.0	111.2
No religion	41.4	14.4	23.1	12.4	5.1	3.7	100.0	603.5
Not stated	29.9	12.4	25.9	17.0	8.2	6.6	100.0	674.1
Other	37.1	12.8	21.0	14.6	7.7	6.7	100.0	19.3
Total	30.5	12.1	24.7	17.1	8.5	7.2	100.0	6,061.0

(a) Includes number of children ever borne not stated.

Source: CX7081E

... women with no children

Over 40 per cent of women reporting no religion and over 35 per cent of Buddhist and Hindu women had never had children. This is however, largely a result of the young age structure rather than of any greater tendency not to have children. About 60 per cent of women aged 15 years and over in these groups were less than 35 years of age compared to 42 per cent of all women aged 15 years and over. Muslim women on the other hand, despite an age structure similar to that of Buddhist and Hindu women (62 per cent were under 35 years) had one of the lowest proportions with no children, 27 per cent, but they also had the lowest proportion of 15-34 year old women who had never been married, 31 per cent.

... average number of children

To take account of the different age structures of the various religious groups which affect the comparative patterns of child bearing, an alternative is to consider the average number of children ever born to women aged 45-54 years at the census. These women are assumed to have completed their child bearing and the measure thus approximates average completed family size. Muslim women had had the largest families with an average of 3.8 children while Jewish women, with an average of 2.3 children had had the smallest. Catholic women had had 3.1 children and Anglican women 2.8. Women who reported no religion averaged 2.7 children.

Muslim Latter Day Saints **Buddhist** Pentecostal Jehovah's Witness **Brethren** Salvation Army Catholic Seventh Day Adventist **Churches of Christ Baptist** Uniting **Anglican** Congregational Presbyterian and Reformed Oriental Christian Hindu Orthodox Jewish.

FIGURE 4.4 WOMEN AGED 45-54 YEARS: RELIGION BY AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORNE

Source: CX7081E

0

Couples

In 1986, 71 per cent of couples stated that both partners were Christians and less than 2 per cent stated that both partners were of non-Christian religion. Less than 1 per cent of couples were mixed i.e. one partner adhered to a Christian religion and the other to a non-Christian religion. One partner either reported no religion or did not state a religion in 8 per cent of couples and both partners reported no religion or did not state a religion in 19 per cent of couples. Reflecting the age distribution, there were proportionally more couple families with other adults (mainly non-dependent children) among couples where both partners were Christian and proportionally more couples with dependent children among couples where both partners adhered to non-Christian religions.

2

Average number of children ever borne

3

TABLE 4.5 COUPLE FAMILIES(a): RELIGION

Religion of couple	Couple only	Couple, dependent child(ren)	Couple, dependent child(ren), adult(s)	Couple, adult(s)	Total
			— per cent	_	
Both partners					
Christian	70.4	68.1	74.7	76.6	70.7
One partner Christian,					
other partner non-Christian	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6
Both partners non-Christian		2.2	2.7	1.2	1.8
One partner no religion or not stated, other partner					
Christian/non-Christian	8.8	9.3	6.3	5.7	8.3
Both partners no religion					
or not stated	19.0	19.7	15.9	16.2	18.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
			'000'		
Total	1,235.6	1,432.0	365.9	436.5	3,470.0

⁽a) Only couple families with both partners present on census night.

Source: CX4149

The proportion of parents reporting no religion was higher in one parent families than in couple families. Both fathers and mothers in one parent families were also more likely than those in couple families to have reported Anglican denominations and less likely to have reported other Christian denominations.

TABLE 4.6 FATHERS AND MOTHERS IN COUPLE FAMILIES(a) AND ONE PARENT FAMILIES: RELIGION

	Fat	ners	Mothers		
Religion	Couple families	One parent families	Couple families	One parent families	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	— per	cent		
Catholic	25.8	22.2	27.5	25.4	
Anglican	22.8	23.8	23.7	26.7	
Uniting Church	7.3	5.5	8.2	6.6	
Other Christian	16.0	13.3	16.8	13.1	
Non-Christian religions	2.8	3.3	2.7	1.5	
No religion	13.9	17.0	10.2	16.1	
Not stated	11.4	14.8	11.0	10.5	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		<u> </u>	000 —		
Total	1,797.9	(b)48.7	1,797.9	(b)272.3	

⁽a) Couple families with dependent children and both partners present on census night. (b) Data on one parent families are from a 1 per cent sample file and may differ from total counts.

Source: CX4149 and AH0002

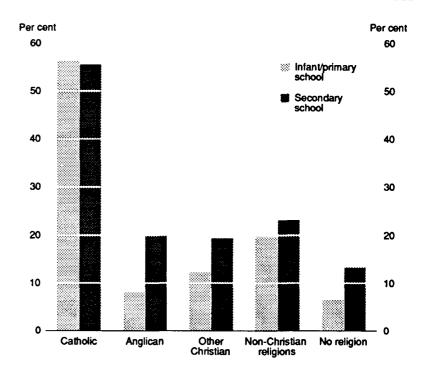
Parents

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

People attending educational institutions
... Catholic children at non-government schools

Catholics were most likely to send their children to non-government schools with 56 per cent of Catholic school children, both primary and secondary, attending non-government schools. In comparison, 8 per cent of Anglican primary school children attended non-government schools, and 20 per cent of Anglican secondary school children did so. This pattern was similar for other Christians and for those who reported no religion. Among adherents to non-Christian religions quite high proportions attended non-government schools but the difference between primary and secondary non-government school attendance was much smaller, 20 per cent compared to 23 per cent.

FIGURE 5.1 PER CENT OF SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTENDING NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS: RELIGION BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED



Source: CX0108

... young people in education

Compulsory education in Australia ceases at age 15 years (16 years in Tasmania). After that age, young people may stay at school to complete their secondary education before perhaps continuing on to tertiary education, or they may transfer to another institution to continue their education, or they may cease education. Overall, 61 per cent of people aged 15-24 years in 1986 were no longer attending an educational institution. Only adherents to Orthodox denominations and to non-Christian religions showed any major differences from the overall pattern of educational attendance. In both of these groups, over 50 per cent of people aged 15-24 years were still attending an educational institution. Other than those at school, the largest proportion of Orthodox adherents (9 per cent) were attending TAFE colleges, while the largest proportion of adherents to non-Christian religions (11 per cent) were attending university.

TABLE 5.1 PEOPLE AGED 15-24 YEARS: RELIGION BY ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Religion	School	TAFE college	CAE	Uni- versity	Other	Insti- tution not stated	Not atten- ding	Total	Total(a,
	·-			— p	er cent -	-			'000
Christian									
Catholic	22.3	7.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	2.9	58.9	100.0	745.9
Anglican	20.7	6.6	2.4	3.3	1.4	2.3	63.3	100.0	565.8
Uniting	23.1	6.6	3.4	4.0	1.8	2.5	58.6	100.0	174.5
Orthodox	27.7	9.2	3.7	7.0	1.7	4.0	46.6	100.0	83.5
Presbyterian				. .					
and Reformed		7.0	2.7	3.4	1.5	2.4	62.5	100.0	78.2
Lutheran	20.8	6.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	2.7	62.0	100.0	32.7
Baptist	21.9	7.5	3.3	4.3	2.5	2.6	57.9	100.0	31.4
Other	21.4	6.7	3.0	5.1	2.2	3.0	58.7	100.0	162.8
Total	21.9	6.9	2.9	4.0	1.7	2.7	59.8	100.0	1,874.9
Other religions	24.6	6.3	3.3	10.7	2.9	4.6	47.5	100.0	54.8
No religion	15.1	5.9	2.4	5.3	1.7	2.1	67.5	100.0	371.5
Not stated	21.9	6.5	2.4	4.2	1.4	3.0	60.5	100.0	287.3
Other	13.9	6.6	2.6	6.2	2.5	3.4	64.8	100.0	10.6
Total	21.0	6.7	2.8	4.4	1.7	2.7	60.8	100.0	2,598.9

(a) Includes attendance not stated.

Source: CX0108

Differences in educational qualifications between Christian denominations

... Catholics and Anglicans similar

Muslims and Buddhists less qualified

... other non-Christians highly qualified

Labour force participation¹ ... highest among people with no religion

In 1986, 33 per cent of the Christian population aged 15 years or more held some sort of post-school qualification, and 5 per cent held a degree or higher qualification. Among the larger Christian denominations, Baptists were the most likely to have held a qualification (39 per cent) and the most likely to have held a degree or higher qualification (6 per cent). Those adhering to an Orthodox denomination were the least likely to have a qualification.

Among Catholics and Anglicans the proportions holding post-school qualifications were both 32 per cent. Catholics were slightly more likely than Anglicans to have held a degree or higher qualification, while Anglicans were slightly more likely than Catholics to have held a trade qualification.

Muslims and Buddhists both had high proportions of people with no qualifications. Muslims were less likely than the total population to have held any sort of qualifications. A high proportion of Buddhists held a degree or higher qualification, offset by a low proportion with trade qualifications.

More than half of the Jewish population held a post-school qualification, one-fifth with a degree or higher. Adherents to other non-Christian religions (particularly Hindus) were also highly qualified with 17 per cent (28 per cent of Hindus) holding a degree or higher qualification. Thirty-nine per cent of people reporting no religion held a qualification and 10 per cent held a degree or higher qualification. Twelve per cent held trade qualifications, a higher proportion than any other group except Lutherans.

The patterns of labour force participation of the different groups were affected quite markedly by their age structures and by their level of education. For example, in 1986, people who reported no religion (who had a high proportion of people aged 25-44 years and a high proportion with post-school qualifications) had the highest labour force participation rate of any group (73 per cent). The relatively high participation rates applied for both men and women.

¹ The number of people aged 15 years or over who were classified as either employed or unemployed, divided by the total population aged 15 years or over (excluding those whose labour force status could not be determined).

TABLE 5.2 ALL PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: RELIGION BY QUALIFICATIONS

Religion	Degree or higher	Diploma	Trade	Other	No qualif- ications	Total	Total(a)
			per	cent —			,000
Christian							
Catholic	4.6	3.5	10.6	13.1	68.2	100.0	3,038.4
Anglican	4.2	3.7	11.2	13.1	67.8	100.0	2,984.7
Uniting	5.2	5.1	10.4	13.3	66.1	100.0	924.6
Presbyterian	0.2	•	10.4		•••	100.0	
and Reformed	4.2	4.2	11.7	14.3	65.6	100.0	477.9
Orthodox	3.4	1.7	8.1	9.9	76.9	100.0	332.0
Lutheran	4.5	3.8	12.1	14.1	65.5	100.0	163.5
Baptist	5.8	5.8	11.1	16.2	61.1	100.0	150.7
Pentecostal	3.9	4.9	10.7	15.0	65.4	100.0	74.2
Other	6.3	5.1	10.7	15.8	62.1	100.0	699.7
Total	4.6	3.9	10.8	13.3	67.4	100.0	8,845.7
Non-Christian							
Muslim	4.9	1.6	6.0	10.7	76.7	100.0	69.6
Buddhist	8.2	2.8	2.9	12.1	74.1	100.0	61.4
Jewish	20.4	7.5	6.7	16.4	49.1	100.0	55.8
Other	17.0	4.6	5.7	15.4	57.4	100.0	43.3
Total	11.8	3.9	<i>5.3</i>	13.3	65.6	100.0	230.1
No religion	10.2	4.2	12.0	12.4	61.1	100.0	1,433.0
Not stated	5.9	3.5	10.7	11.8	68.2	100.0	1,409.0
Other	9.6	4.5	11.1	15.5	59.2	100.0	47.5
Total	5.6	3.9	10.8	13.1	66.6	100.0	11,965.3

(a) Includes type of qualification not stated.

Source: CX7081F

... low participation of Muslims

At 55 per cent, Muslims had one of the lowest labour force participation rates, reflecting both their younger age structure and the lower level of qualifications. Some of the smaller Christian groups, which had much older age structures, had slightly lower overall levels of labour force participation. When considered separately however, Muslim men and women had the lowest rates of any group, 70 per cent and 38 per cent respectively.

... women in the labour force

Overall, married women had slightly lower levels of labour force participation than women who were not currently married. However, the reverse was true for all larger religious groups except Catholic and Pentecostal. The greatest difference in participation between married women and other women occurred for Jewish women, largely a result of their older age structure. Labour force participation rates of over 50 per cent were recorded for married women of Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Orthodox faith and for other women of the Catholic and Pentecostal denominational groupings. More than half of women who reported no religion, whether married or not, participated in the labour force.

TABLE 5.3 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES: RELIGION BY SEX AND **MARITAL STATUS**

Religion	Men	Married Women	Other Women	Total Women	Total	Total labour force
			— per cent	· —		,000
Christian						
Catholic	75.9	48.6	50.4	49.4	62.2	1,866.7
Anglican	72.8	45.3	43.9	44.7	58.0	1,714.5
Uniting	73.3	46.4	42.7	44.9	57.8	530.2
Presbyterian						
and Reformed	70.9	44.2	41.8	43.2	56.2	266.4
Orthodox	71.8	51.5	44.8	49.1	60.7	198.3
Lutheran	75.7	49.1	46.8	48.1	61.3	99.2
Baptist	74.2	44.2	43.7	44.0	57.9	86.4
Pentecostal	80.3	43.6	50.1	46.2	61.7	45.2
Other	72.4	44.7	43.6	44.2	57.2	396.3
Total	73.9	46.7	46.0	46.4	59.5	5,203.5
Non-Christian						
Muslim	69.6	38.6	36.1	37.9	55.1	37.6
Buddhist	75.0	59.5	48.8	54.7	65.3	39.5
Jewish	70.3	57.0	38.7	49.5	59.5	32.9
Other	75.4	54.1	50.3	52.5	64.5	27.4
Total	72.3	51.0	43.6	48.1	60.6	137.3
No Religion	82.9	55.7	64.0	59.9	73.2	1,039.9
Not Stated	73.6	45.7	47.3	46.4	60.5	765.9
Other	75.0	47.4	52.0	49.9	64.8	30.2
Total	75.1	47.5	48.3	47.8	61.3	7,176.7

Source: CX2457

Unemployment The unemployment rate for adherents to non-Christian religions, at 21 ... high for adherents to per cent, was more than twice as high as that for Christians. However, this may be due to the fact that most of these non-Christian religions except non-Christians were recent immigrants. Jewish people, who have on Jewish average been in Australia much longer than adherents to other non-Christian religions, had the lowest unemployment rate of any

group. The unemployment rates for married women adhering to non-Christian religions, other than Jewish women, were higher than those of men in this group and quite similar to those of the not married women, a situation quite different from that prevailing among

Christians.

... unemployed Christians

Among the larger Christian denominations, the lowest unemployment rate was recorded for adherents to the Uniting denomination (6 per cent) and the highest for Pentecostal adherents (11 per cent). Only Brethren had a lower unemployment rate than Uniting adherents. Several smaller groups recorded rates higher than that of adherents to Pentecostal denominations (Oriental Christian, Latter Day Saints, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist and Jehovah's Witness). Women, except for Orthodox adherents, had slightly higher unemployment rates than men. The rates for women who were not currently married were more than twice those for married women across all denominational groupings.

TABLE 5.4 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: RELIGION BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS

Religion	Men	Married Women	Other Women	Total Women	Total	Total un- employed
			— per cent	· -	-	,000
Christian						
Catholic	8.5	5.9	13.1	9.1	8.7	162.7
Anglican	8.2	4.8	14.2	8.7	8.4	144.6
Uniting	5.7	4.1	11.2	6.8	6.1	32.6
Presbyterian						
and Reformed	6.6	4.5	12.0	7.6	7.0	18.6
Orthodox	11.0	8.0	16.6	10.9	10.9	21.7
Lutheran	7.3	5.0	13.3	8.3	7.7	7.6
Baptist	7.0	5.2	12.6	8.2	7.5	6.5
Pentecostal	10.8	7.8	17.8	12.2	11.4	5.1
Other	9.3	6.8	14.9	10.2	9.6	38.2
Total	8.1	5.4	13.5	8.8	8.4	437.7
Non-Christian						
Muslim	26.8	31.6	35.5	32.7	28.6	10.8
Buddhist	26.2	33.5	32.4	33.0	29.0	11.4
Jewish	4.7	3.7	9.8	5.7	5.1	1.7
Other	18.2	18.3	26.5	21.6	19.5	5.3
Total	20.1	21.7	26.0	23.3	21.3	29.2
No Religion	11.1	7.4	16.7	12.4	11.6	120.3
Not Stated	9.1	5.7	14.7	9.5	9.3	71.0
Other	16.0	8.7	21.8	16.1	16.0	4.8
Total	9.0	6.0	14.3	9.6	9.2	663.1

Source: CX2457

Occupation reflected qualifications

The most common occupation among all Christians was clerk and among non-Christians it was professional. These overall figures however conceal considerable variation between the different groups, corresponding to the variation in levels of qualifications described earlier. For example, 24 per cent of employed Baptists were professionals or para-professionals compared to 19 per cent of the total employed. In contrast, 41 per cent of employed Orthodox adherents were plant and machine operators or labourers, almost twice the proportion of the total employed in these occupations (23 per cent).

... Lutheran managers and administrators

Lutherans, of whom over a quarter lived in rural areas, were unusual in that their most common occupation was manager and administrator, 18 per cent compared to 12 per cent of all employed people.

... Muslim and Buddhist labourers

Reflecting their lower rate of qualification and also perhaps their recent arrival in Australia, employed Muslims and Buddhists were most likely to have been employed as labourers and related workers. Of those employed, 27 per cent of Muslims and 28 per cent of Buddhists were labourers, almost twice the proportion of the total employed (15 per cent). Comparatively, Buddhists were better qualified than Muslims and this was illustrated in the proportions who were professionals or para-professionals, 17 per cent of employed Buddhists compared to 12 per cent of employed Muslims.

TABLE 5.5 EMPLOYED PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: RELIGION BY OCCUPATION

Religion	Managers and admin- istrators	Prof- ess- ionals		Trades- persons	Clerks	Personal service i and sales	oper-	Lab- ourers and related workers	Total(a,
				— pe	r cent				'000
Christian									
Catholic	10.4	10.2	6.3	16.5	18.9	13.3	8.6	15.8	1,704.0
Anglican	13.1	10.5	6.8	15.1	18.4	13.6	8.3	14.1	1,569.9
Uniting	16.9	12.7	7.1	13.6	18.0	12.6	7.0	12.0	497.6
Presbyterian	1								
and Reform	ned 15.8	10.7	7.0	14.9	18.4	12.7	7.6	12.9	247.8
Orthodox	7.9	7.1	2.6	16.9	12.4	12.6	15.2	25.3	176.6
Lutheran	18.1	10.1	6.8	16.7	14.4	11.4	7.8	14.7	91.6
Baptist	11.0	15.2	8.7	14.6	18.9	12.6	6.5	12.5	79.9
Pentecostal	8.6	12.4	7.3	16.3	17.7	13.7	7.3	16.7	40.1
Other	11.7	14.9	7.6	15.0	17.6	12.5	6.8	14.0	358.1
Total	12.4	10.9	6.6	15.5	18.2	13.2	8.3	14.8	4,765.8
Non-Christian									
Muslim	6.4	8.5	3.1	15.3	10.2	8.8	21.0	26 .7	26.8
Buddhist	5.7	12.3	5.2	13.4	10.7	7.7	16.9	28.2	28.1
Jewish	20.6	31.0	3.4	5.8	16.3	16.9	2.3	3.6	31.2
Other	8.8	25.1	7.0	10.8	16.3	10.3	6.8	15.0	22.0
Total	10.8	19.4	4.5	11.1	13.3	11.2	11.6	18.0	108.1
No religion	10.1	16.9	7.2	16.7	15.2	11.6	8.4	13.8	919.5
Not stated	12.0	12.6	6.6	16.3	16.9	11.8	8.8	15.0	694.9
Other	10.9	17.9	7.4	16.1	13.4	10.4	8.1	15.6	25.3
Total	12.0	12.1	6.6	15.7	17.5	12.8	8.4	14.8	6,513.5

(a) Includes occupation not stated and occupation inadequately described.

Source: Table CX7081G

... adherents to other non-Christian religions were professionals

About one-third of employed Jews and adherents to other non-Christian religions (two-fifths of Hindus) were professionals or para-professionals, reflecting the much higher proportions of people with degrees or higher qualifications in these groups. Of the Jewish employed population, a further 21 per cent were managers and administrators, while 6 per cent were labourers or plant and machine operators.

... people reporting no religion

Of employed people reporting no religion, 24 per cent were professionals or para-professionals and 17 per cent were tradespeople, compared to 19 per cent and 16 per cent respectively of all employed people. These figures again reflect the pattern of qualifications held by those reporting no religion.

income reflected labour force activity

... low income groups

The income distribution of the different religious groups clearly reflected their different labour force activities. At the lowest end of the income scale, were those groups with lower levels of labour force participation or higher levels of unemployment. In the middle ranges were the groups with high proportions in lower paid occupations while at the top of the scale were the groups with high proportions of people employed in professional and para-professional occupations.

At the 1986 Census, almost one-third of Muslims aged 15 years and over had an annual income of \$4,000 or less. As described above, Muslims had a very low level of labour force participation and a very high level of unemployment, both of which contributed to this figure. Orthodox adherents (with relatively high unemployment levels) also had high proportions of people receiving less than \$4,000 a year. In the income range \$4,001 - \$6,000 a year, were high proportions of those groups with older age structures and slightly lower labour force participation.

TABLE 5.6 ALL PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: RELIGION BY INDIVIDUAL INCOME

Religion	\$0- \$4,000	\$4,001- \$6,000	\$6,001- \$15,000	\$15,001- \$32,000	Over \$32,000	Total(a)
			per cen	t —		,000
Christian						
Catholic	22.7	15.5	28.2	29.8	3.7	3.038.4
Anglican	19.5	18.9	27.9	28.9	4.8	2,984.7
Uniting	21.0	18.8	27.6	27.9	4.7	924.6
Presbyterian						
and Reformed	18.5	19.0	28.9	28.6	5.0	477.9
Orthodox	24.2	16.4	33.9	23.6	1.9	332.0
Lutheran	22.7	19.3	28.9	25.6	3.5	163.5
Baptist	23.7	18.0	25.4	29.0	3.9	150.7
Other	22.4	18.1	28.2	27.1	4.3	773.9
Total	21.3	17.6	28.3	28.7	4.3	8,845.7
Non-Christian						
Muslim	32.6	10.8	36.3	18.4	1.9	69.6
Other	21.3	16.0	25.7	28.7	8.2	160.5
Total	24.9	14.4	29.1	25.4	6.2	230.1
No religion	18.5	12.5	26.1	36.1	6.8	1,433.0
Other	20.8	17.5	27.6	29.4	4.6	1,456.5
Total	20.9	16.9	27.9	29.6	4.7	11,965.3

⁽a) Includes income not stated.

Source: AH0001

... middle income groups

In the middle income range, two groups with high proportions of labourers and related workers, Orthodox adherents and Muslims, had high proportions (over one-third) receiving an annual income of \$6,001 - \$15,000. The remaining groups varied little from the overall figure of 28 per cent.

... high income groups

Over 8 per cent of adherents to other non-Christian religions, which included Jews and Hindus, and 7 per cent of people reporting no religion, had an annual income in excess of \$32,000. These groups had the highest proportions of professionals and para-professionals. Over one-third of people reporting no religion received \$15,001 - \$32,000 a year.

... income of employed people

When the annual income of employed people was examined, a similar picture emerged. About 40 per cent of employed Orthodox adherents, Muslims and Buddhists received \$9,001 - \$15,000 a year compared to 24 per cent of the total employed. Employed Jews and Hindus had the highest incomes (over 16 per cent received more than \$32,000 a year, twice the proportion of the total employed), reflecting their levels of people employed as professionals. About 10 per cent of employed people reporting no religion received more than \$32,000 a year. Among those reporting adherence to a Christian denomination, there was a tendency for people from Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian and Reformed, and Baptist denominational groupings to have higher incomes than the overall employed population.

TABLE 5.7 EMPLOYED PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: RELIGION BY INDIVIDUAL INCOME

Religion	\$0- \$9,000				\$32,001- \$40,000	Over \$40,000	Total(a)
			— per	cent —			,000
Christian							
Catholic	18.7	25.9	33.0	16.1	3.7	2.6	1,704.0
Anglican	19.1	23.3	31.6	17.7	4.5	3.8	1,569.9
Uniting	22.1	22.5	29.3	17.9	4.6	3.7	497.6
Presbyterian							
and Reformed	19.4	22.7	31.5	17.9	4.6	3.9	247.8
Orthodox	17.3	37.9	31.4	10.3	1.8	1.4	176.6
Lutheran	23.7	24.2	30.2	15.9	3.5	2.5	91.6
Baptist	20.9	22.0	31.1	18.5	4.5	3.1	79.9
Pentecostal	24.3	25.8	31.8	14.0	2.5	1.6	40.1
Other	21.6	23.3	30.2	17.2	4.4	3.4	358.1
Total	19.6	24.7	31.7	16.8	4.1	3.2	4,765.8
Non-Christian							
Muslim	14.6	39.5	31.7	10.2	2.3	1.7	26.8
Buddhist	11.6	40.7	31.6	10.4	2.8	2.9	28.1
Jewish	13.7	17.2	25.6	21.6	9.5	12.4	31.2
Other	17.8	24.4	28.7	18.0	5.7	5.3	22.0
Total	14.2	30.3	29.3	15.1	5 .2	5.8	108.1
No religion	14.8	22.4	32.1	20.6	5.7	4.4	919.5
Not stated	19.0	23.8	31.5	17.7	4.5	3.4	694.9
Other	19.8	24.1	29.7	18.1	4.6	3.7	25.3
Total	18.7	24.3	31.7	17.4	4.4	3.5	6,513.5

⁽a) Includes income not stated.

Source: CX7081G

APPENDIX A

Publications in the series

Cat.No.	Title
2501.0	Census 86 — Australia in Brief (Dec. 1987)
2502.0	Census 86 — Australia in Profile (Aug. 1988)
2503.0	Census 86 — Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
2504.0	Census 86 — Population Growth and Distribution in Australia (including internal migration) (Sept. 1990)
2505.0	Census 86 — Multicultural Australia
2506.0	Census 86 — Australian Families and Households (Sept. 1989)
2507.0	Census 86 — Rural Australia
2508.0	Census 86 — Ageing Australia
2509.0	Census 86 — Australia's Caravan Park Dwellers
2510.0	Census 86 — Religion in Australia (Jan. 1991)
2511.0	Census 86 — Australia's One Parent Families
2514.0	Census 86 — Fertility in Australia

APPENDIX B

Guide to data sources

A number of sources given for tables and figures in this publication are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviated titles follows.

AH

Table derived from a one per cent sample of unidentified households in private dwellings and all people within them, plus a one per cent sample of unidentified people in non-private dwellings. For further information see *Census 86 - Sample Files on Magnetic Tape* (Cat. No. 2184.0).

CSD*

Twenty one page format consisting of 70 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.

CX

Cross-classified table on microfiche or floppy disk.

If you require further information about the data sources used in this publication, refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) available free of charge from the nearest ABS office (see Appendix C for addresses and telephone numbers) or contact an Information Officer.

^{*} Available for a range of geographic areas. Refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) for further information.

APPENDIX C

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