

# AUSTRALIA – AN OVERVIEW

## 1. Population (ABS)

Population - 2004	20,200,000
Population - 2021 (estimate)	23,400,000
Population - 2051 (estimate)	26,400,000
Population Growth Rate Per Year - Current	1.0%
Number of Households (2001)	7,400,000
Percentage of people born overseas (2001)	23.6%

## 2. Gross Domestic Product (2003/2004 - ABS)

Gross Domestic Product (approx)	\$800 billion
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## 3. Nominal Religious Adherence – Major Religions (2001 Census)

% of pop'n

Christianity	68.0
No Religion	15.5
Not Stated/Inadequately Described	11.7
Islam	1.5
Buddhism	1.9
Judaism	0.4
Hinduism	0.5
Other	0.5

## 4. Nominal Adherence – Major Denominations (2001 Census)

% of pop'n

Catholic	26.6
Anglican	20.7
Uniting	6.7
Presbyterian/Reformed	3.4
Eastern Orthodox	2.8
Baptist	1.6
Lutheran	1.3
Pentecostal	1.0
Churches of Christ	0.3
Salvation Army	0.4
Other Christian	2.7

## 5. Protestant Church Attendance (2001 NCLS)

% of pop'n

Av Weekly Attendance (denominations included in NCLS)	759,900
Av Weekly Attendance (denominations not included in NCLS - estimate)	137,000
Total Weekly Attendance (approx 4.5% of population)	896,900
Protestant Congregations (denominations included in NCLS)	10,447
Average Size of Protestant Congregations	73

## 6. Contact With the Church (1998 Aust Community Survey)

% of pop'n

Attendance at a special religious service at least once in last year (eg wedding, baptism etc)	71%
Attendance at church at least once in last year	40%
People visited by a church worker in last year	17%
People helped by church welfare organization in last year	3%
People using church counseling service in last year	3%
School children attending a private school	30%

## 7. Change in Weekly Attendance and Number of Congregations 1991-2001 (2001 NCLS)

	Weekly Attendance (% change 1991-2001)	No of Congregations (% change 1991-2001)
Anglican	-7%	-9%
Apostolic	32%	67%
AOG	30%	37%
Baptist	9%	12%
CMA	46%	33%
Christian City (since 1996)	42%	41%
CRC	12%	19%
Church of the Nazarene	33%	27%
C of C	3%	0%
Lutheran	-18%	-5%
Presbyterian	-1%	-8%
Reformed	-15%	2%
Salvation Army	1%	-2%
Uniting	-22%	-22%
Vineyard (since 1996)	-17%	60%
Wesleyan Methodist	9%	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

## 8. Changes Between 1996 and 2001 (2001 NCLS)

% change 1996-2001

Australian Population	6%
People Identifying themselves with a Protestant Denomination	-3%
Average Weekly Protestant Church Attendance	1%
Number of Congregations (partly due to UC change in definition of congregation)	-5%

## 9. General Profile of Church Attenders

	Church Attenders (%)	General Pop'n (%)
15-19 yrs	6	7
20-29 yrs	8	14
30-39 yrs	12	15
40-49 yrs	18	15
50-59 yrs	19	12
60-69 yrs	17	8
70+ yrs	21	9
Male	39	49.4
Female	61	50.6
University Educated	23	10
Born Overseas	25	23.6