

Religion and Belief Systems in Australia Post - 1945



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Two Strands



What does religion
look like in
Australia?

*And how did it get
to be that way?*



Aboriginal
Spirituality

Dreaming

Dispossession

Land Rights

What are you asked to DO ?

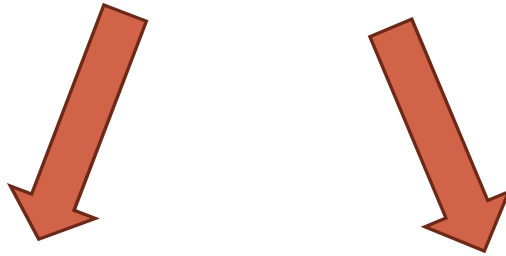


10 Multiple
Choice



5 mark Short answer
*Scanned for on screen
marking*
Restrictions with area

What does the syllabus ask explicitly?



Outcomes

Learn TO statements

Outcomes

- H1 explains aspects of religion and belief systems
- H2 describes and analyses the influence of religion and belief systems on individuals and society
- H3 examines the influence and expression of religion and belief systems in Australia
- H4 describes and analyses how aspects of religious traditions are expressed by their adherents
- H5 evaluates the influence of religious traditions in the life of adherents
- H6 organises, analyses and synthesises relevant information about religion from a variety of sources, considering usefulness, validity and bias
- H8 applies appropriate terminology and concepts related to religion and belief systems
- H9 coherently and effectively communicates complex information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms.

Learn to statements.....

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

discuss how Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming
kinship
ceremonial life
obligations to the land and people

discuss the continuing effect of dispossession on Aboriginal Spiritualities in relation to:
separation from the land
separation from kinship groups
the Stolen Generations

outline the importance of the following for the Land Rights movement:
Native Title
Mabo
Wik

analyse the importance of the Dreaming for the Land Rights movement

Learn to statements.....

outline changing patterns of religious adherence from 1945 to the present using census data

account for the present religious landscape in Australia in relation to:
Christianity as the major religious tradition
immigration
denominational switching
rise of New Age religions
secularism

describe the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia
The National Council of Churches
NSW Ecumenical Council

evaluate the importance of interfaith dialogue in multifaith Australia

examine the relationship between Aboriginal spiritualities and religious traditions in the process of Reconciliation

Skills expected of you

explains
describes
analyses
examines
evaluates
organises, analyses and
synthesises
applies
coherently and effectively
communicates

discuss
outline
analyse
account for
describe
evaluate
examine

**Content familiarity IS important but it is what
you DO with it that matters**



Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Clear understanding of the Dreaming from Prelim

- Means subtly different things to different indigenous Australians
- Metatemporal: transcends time. Equally of the past the present and the future
- Comes from the land
- Refers to the way that ancestor spirits came from, shaped and formed and returned to the land.
- Informs and is informed by *KINSHIP, CEREMONIAL LIFE OBLIGATION TO LAND AND PEOPLES*

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

**What do we need to DO
with this definition or
understanding?**



Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Kinship

Spirituality for Indigenous Australians is about the totality of life. It is not a separate component of life. Therefore kinship, defined ways of relationship within and between family groupings, which is determined by the dreaming IS going to be connected to Spirituality.

Some important kinship concepts: totem, moiety

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined
by the Dreaming

Ceremonial life

Ceremonial life, which is the ritual and artistic expression of the Dreaming, is going to be connected to Spirituality because it is an expression of that Spirituality.

*Some important ceremonial life concepts:
Art, music, story, gender*

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

**Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined
by the Dreaming**

Obligations to the land and people

Land is of crucial importance to the Dreaming... the
inextricable connection...

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have such an
inseparable and timeless connection with land and that
they often regard the Land as mother.

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Because of the **LAND** being so crucial the obligations to the land and people are also crucial they can:

- Only be truly understood by those “elders” with full knowledge of the Dreaming
- Vary according to place
- Vary according to gender and place in the community

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Therefore **country** is the geographical and spiritual place where kinship connections are established and ceremonial life is enacted by different individuals and groups according to their obligations.

Consider:

Due respect is shown in use care and management of the land. Sustainable practices.

Formal protocols of entry and crossing land exist.

Welcome to country. Fulfils obligation to the land and the peoples by addressing the original custodians and the ancestors past and present.

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

2012 HSC Question One

What is the basis of the Dreaming?

- (A) Ceremonial life
- (B) Kinship
- (C) Totem
- (D) Land

D

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

2012 HSC Question Five

The traditional role of initiation ceremonies in Aboriginal spirituality has been to prepare young people

- (A) for the effects of dispossession.
- (B) for their struggle for Land Rights.
- (C) to undertake adult responsibilities.
- (D) to develop a relationship with the religious traditions.

C

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

2012 HSC Question Nine

Burial in one's 'country' is important in Aboriginal spirituality because

- (A) relatives can access the burial site.
- (B) the deceased's spirit can be comforted.
- (C) relatives can complete the burial rituals.
- (D) the deceased's spirit can return to its ancestors

D

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

2012 HSC Question Ten

Statement 1: Kinship within traditional Aboriginal society regulates social relationships, including marriage.

Statement 2: Totemism expresses a system of kinship within the natural world.

Which of the following is correct?

- (A) Both statements are true.
- (B) Both statements are false.
- (C) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.
- (D) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.



Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

How might THESE questions have become a short answer style question ?

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Continuing effects of dispossession

WHAT IS DISPOSSESSION?

Literally ... it means to have your possessions removed from you

When applied to Indigenous Australians it is the **forced removal from land**. This removal is as a direct result of a series of government policies... Protectionism, Segregation, Assimilation, Integration.

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Continuing effects of dispossession

BE CAREFUL?

While these government policies are Crucial to understand in the effects of dispossession they are NOT what the syllabus is asking of themselves because:

- Time period...this topic is **1945 to the present**
- The syllabus asks for **continuing effects of dispossession** NOT a lengthy recount of causes.

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Continuing effects of dispossession

% of population	2.7%
Estimated Pop	548,370 (Census 2011)
Life Expectancy	Males 67 (Aust av. 77) Females 72 (Aust av. 86)
Incarcerated	20% of prison population
Unemployment	20%
Mental health	5x national average in drug-induced mental disorders 2x national average in schizophrenia, 2x3 national average in suicide
Homeless	9%

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Continuing effects of dispossession

To assist you to understand the CONTINUING effects of Dispossession on Spirituality , consider watching *Kanyini*. This is a documentary about the effects of dispossession on an Aboriginal community told thru the eyes of elder Bob Randall.

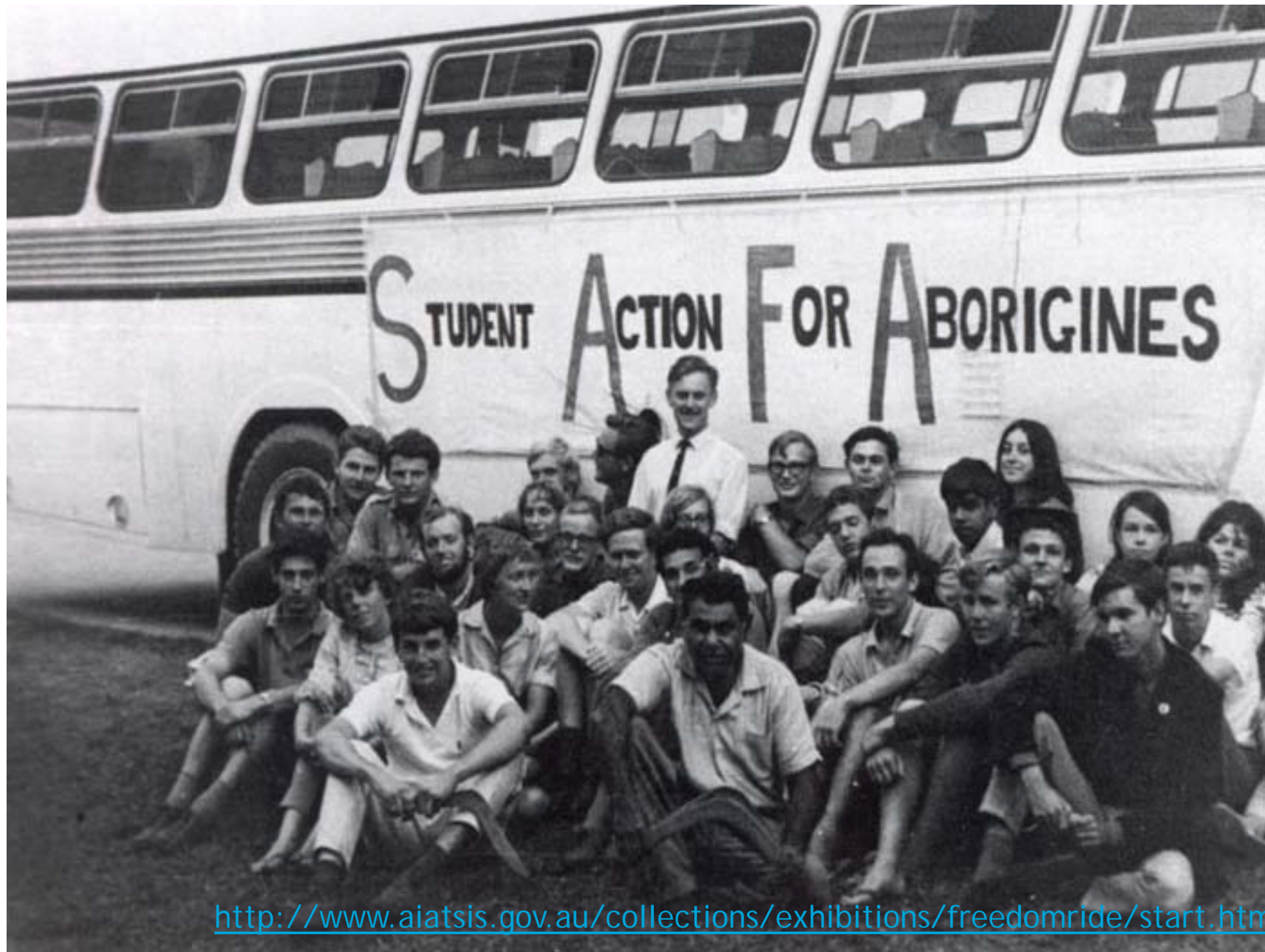
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA0cfkcGDKA>

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

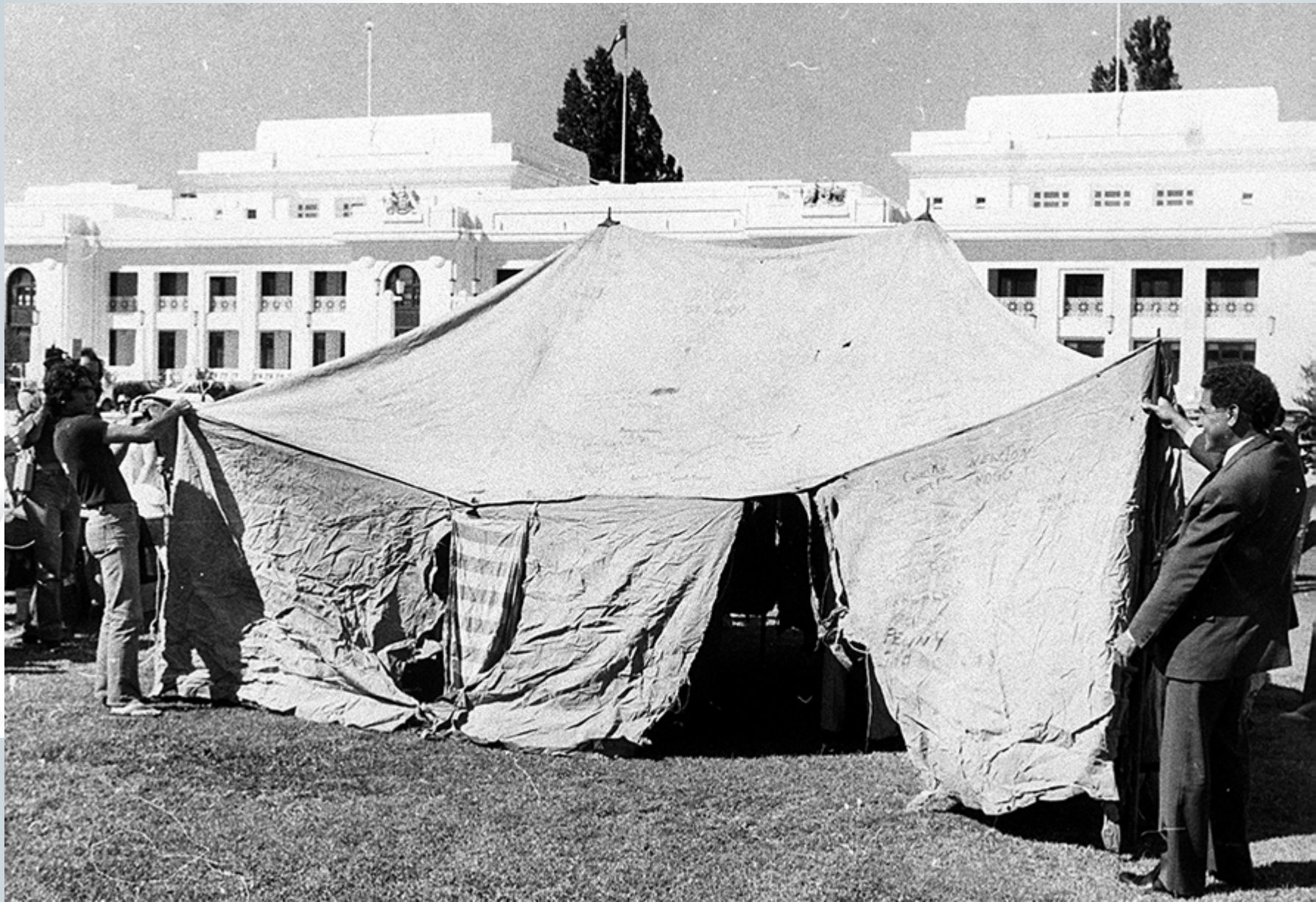
Land Rights Movement



<http://www.abc.net.au/archives/80days/stories/2012/01/19/3411481.htm>



<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/collections/exhibitions/freedomride/start.htm>



<http://www.mabonativetitle.com/info/emb.htm>



<http://foundingdocs.gov.au/enlargement-eld-73-pid-50.html>



<http://www.hinterlandtimes.com.au/2011/10/08/qurindji-freedom-day/>

Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Outline the importance of the following for the Land Rights movement:

Native Title

Mabo

Wik

Analyse the importance of the Dreaming for the Land Rights movement

What	When	Who	What happened	Why important for LR mvt?	Why important for A&TSI Spirituality?
Yirrkala Bark Petition					
Freedom Rides					
Tent Embassy					
Gurindji Lands					
Mabo Decision					
Native title Act 1993					
Wik decision					
10 Point Plan					

Religious expression in Australia 1945 to the present

outline changing patterns of religious adherence from 1945 to the present using census data

account for the present religious landscape in Australia in relation to:

- Christianity as the major religious tradition
- immigration
- denominational switching
- rise of New Age religions
- secularism

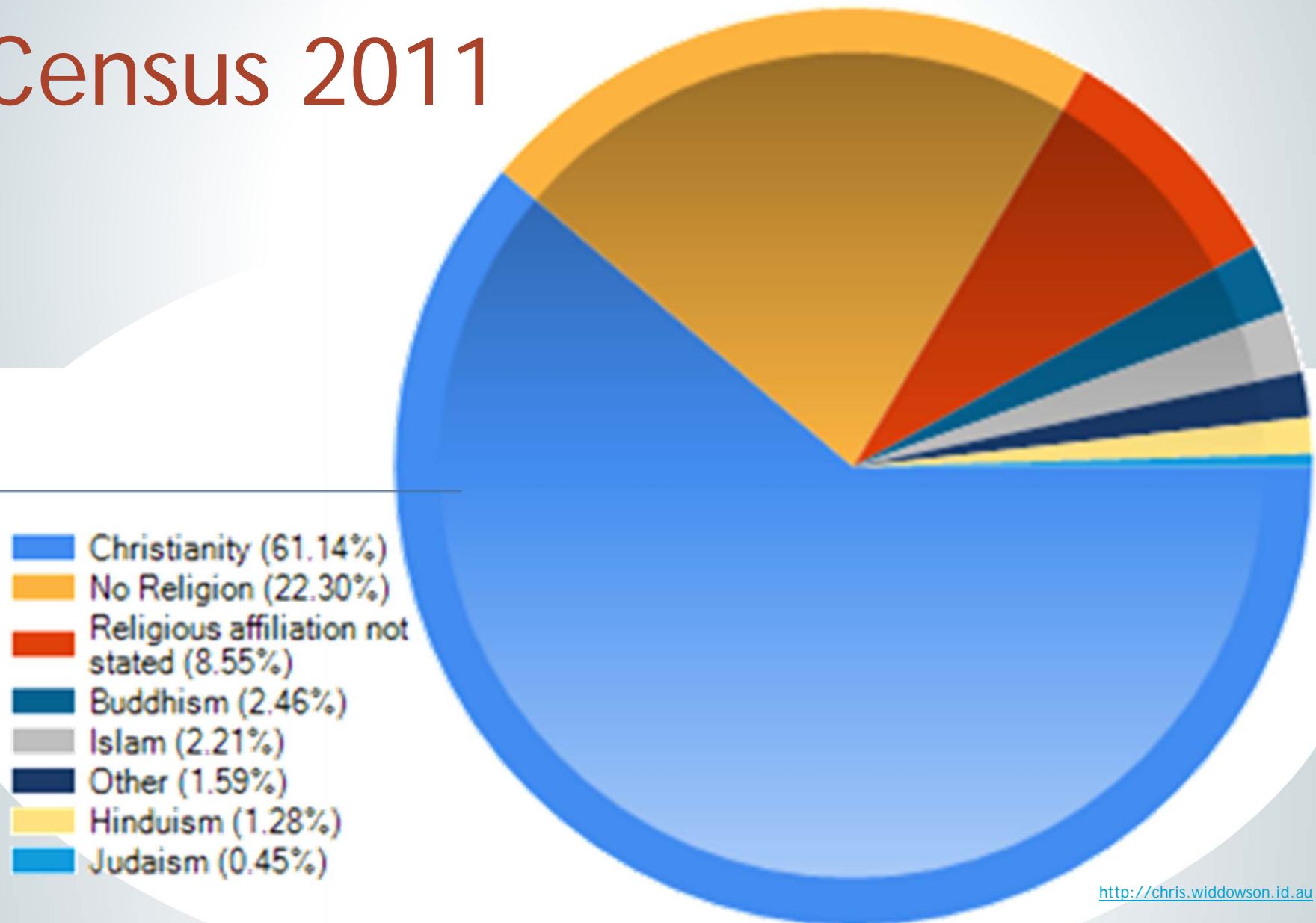


Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to the present

When preparing your study notes consider...

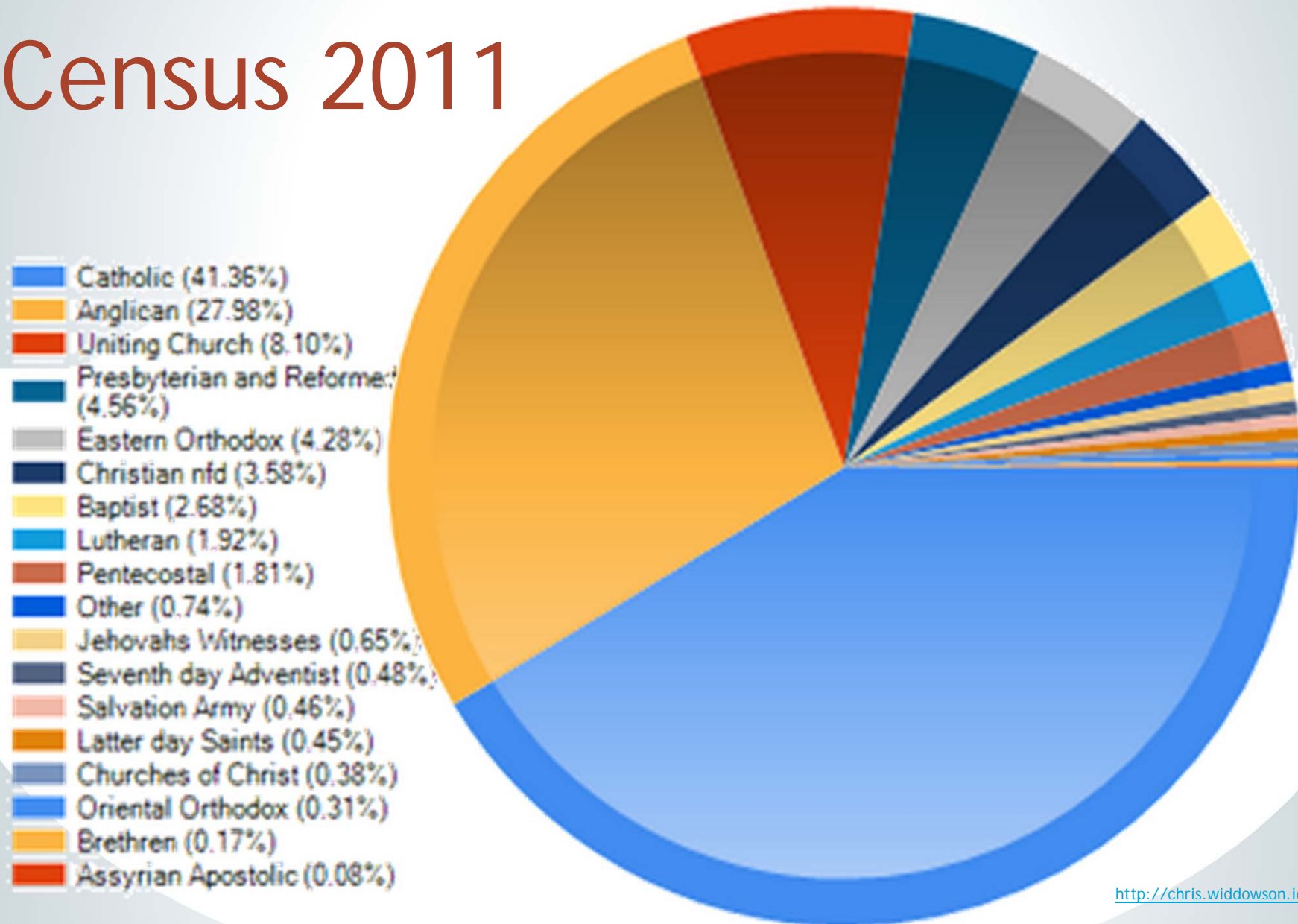
- Timeframe
- Know your numbers
- Different ways of looking at the numbers
- Different representations for the numbers
- Language of comparison

Census 2011



This graph is very straight forward. It represents Religious Traditions in Australia 2011

Census 2011



<http://chris.widdowson.id.au>

This graph is more confusing. It takes ALL of Christianity as 100% and then divides the whole according to percentage of adherents. You MUST know your stats

Census 2011

	1947	1961	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Christian											
Anglican	39.0	34.9	31.0	27.7	26.1	23.9	23.8	22.0	20.5	18.7	17.1
Baptist	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
Catholic	20.9	24.9	27.0	25.7	26.0	26.1	27.3	27.0	26.6	25.8	25.3
Churches of Christ	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Lutheran	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Methodist*	11.5	10.2	8.6	7.3	3.4						
Orthodox	0.2	1.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.6
Pentecostal**				0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Presbyterian And Reformed	9.8	9.3	8.1	6.6	4.4	3.6	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.8
Salvation Army	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Uniting					4.9	7.6	8.2	7.5	6.7	5.7	5.0
Other Christian†	2.0	3.3	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.4	3.3	3.8	2.11	2.11	4.5
Total	87.3	88.4	86.2	78.8	77.1	74.1	74.7	71.8	67.7	62.81	61.7

Census 1947 - 2011

Non-Christian	1947	1961	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	
Buddhism	0.01	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.9	2.1	2.5
Hinduism	0.00	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.3
Islam	0.04	NA	NA	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.7	2.2
Judaism	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other Non Christian	0.02	0.07	0.09	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8
Total	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.6	3.4	4.8	5.7	7.3
Other												
No religion‡	0.3	0.3	0.4	6.7	8.3	10.8	12.7	12.9	16.6	15.5	18.7	22.3
Not stated/Inadequately	10.9	9.7	10.7	6.3	12.2	11.4	12.3	11.5	9.0	11.7	11.9	8.5
Total other	11.2	10.0	11.1	13.0	20.5	22.2	23.0	23.4	25.6	27.2	30.6	30.8

Religion Top 20 Australia

2011	2006
Catholic - 25.3%	Catholic - 25.8%
No religion - 22.3%	Anglican - 18.7%
Anglican - 17.1%	No religion - 18.7 %
Uniting Church 5.0%	Uniting Church - 5.7%
Presbyterian and Reformed - 2.8%	Presbyterian and Reformed - 3.0 %
Eastern Orthodox - 2.6%	Eastern Orthodox - 2.7%
Buddhism - 2.5%	Buddhism - 2.1%
Islam 2.2%	Islam - 1.7%
Christian, nfd 2.2%	Baptist - 1.6%
Baptist - 1.6%	Christian, nfd - 1.6%
Hinduism 1.3%	Lutheran - 1.3%
Lutheran - 1.2%	Pentecostal - 1.1%
Pentecostal 1.1%	Hinduism - 0.7%
Judaism - 0.5%	Judaism - 0.4%
Jehovah's Witnesses - 0.4%	Jehovah's Witnesses - 0.4%
Sikhism - 0.3%	Salvation Army - 0.3%
Seventh-day Adventist - 0.3%	Other Protestant - 0.3%
Other Protestant - 0.3%	Seventh-day Adventist - 0.3%
Salvation Army - 0.3%	Church of Jesus Christ - 0.3%
Latter-day Saints - 0.3%	Latter-day Saints - 0.3%

Changes: Relative and Absolute

	2006		2011		Growth
Religion	'000	%	'000	%	%
Christianity	12685.8	63.89	13150.6	61.14	3.66
	0		0		
Catholic	5126.90	25.82	5439.20	25.29	6.09
Anglican	3718.20	18.73	3680.00	17.11	-1.03
Uniting	1135.40	5.72	1065.80	4.96	-6.13
Presbyterian	596.70	3.01	599.50	2.79	0.47
Eastern Orthodox	544.20	2.74	563.10	2.62	3.47
Baptist	316.70	1.60	352.50	1.64	11.30
Lutheran	251.10	1.26	251.90	1.17	0.32
Pentecostal	219.70	1.11	238.00	1.11	8.33
Other Christian Denominations	776.90	3.91	960.70	4.47	23.66

Changes: Relative and Absolute

	2006		2011		Growth
Religion	'000	%	'000	%	%
Non-Christian	1105.10	5.57	1546.30	7.19	39.92
Buddhism	418.80	2.11	529.00	2.46	26.31
Islam	340.40	1.71	476.30	2.21	39.92
Hinduism	148.10	0.75	275.50	1.28	86.02
Judaism	88.80	0.45	97.30	0.45	9.57
Other Non-Christian	109.00	0.55	168.20	0.78	54.31
Inadequately described	133.80	0.67		0.00	-100.00
No religion	3706.60	18.67	4796.80	22.30	29.41
Not stated	2224.00	11.20		0.00	-100.00
Total	19855.3	100.00	21507.7	100.00	8.32
	0		0*		

What to DO with all this information?

You MUST be able to DESCRIBE AND ACCOUNT for the pattern of religious affiliation in Australia

DESCRIBE

Figures

Trend language

Traditions

Denominations

ACCOUNT FOR

Some of the key factors are:

Immigration

Increased Secularism

Growth of New Age Philosophies

Denominational Switching

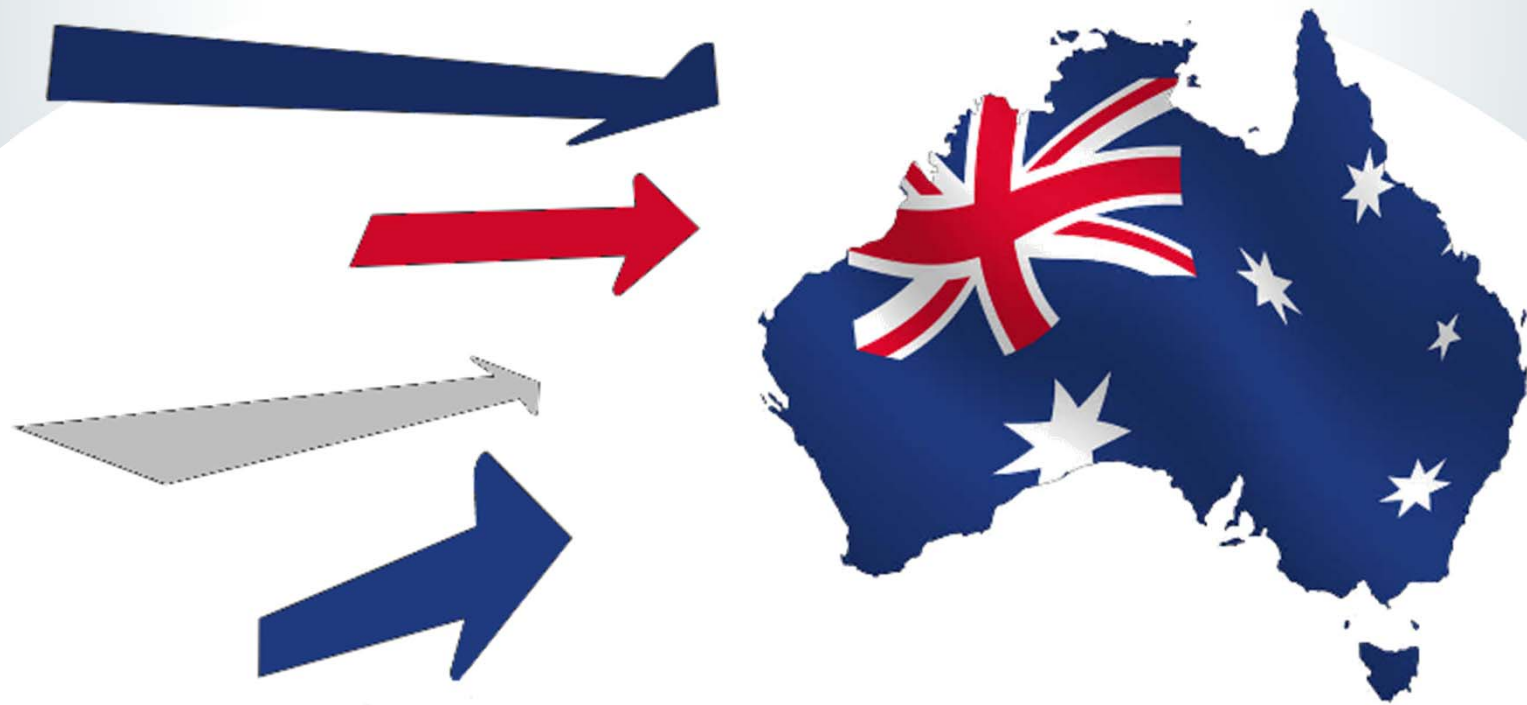
Abolition of the White Australia Policy

Policy

Formation of the Uniting Church

Specific evidence /reasons needed for each.

Role of Immigration



<http://www.theideal.com.au>

Time	Trend	Causes
1945 - 1960's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Catholicism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post WWII migration from southern European countries eg Italy, Malta • Middle eastern Conflict sees increase in Lebanese Catholic migrants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of Orthodoxy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post war migration from Orthodox countries especially Greece
1970's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam becomes 0.3% of Population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of the White Australia Policy 1972 allows more Middle Eastern Immigrants escaping war.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued increase in Catholicism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Australia Policy abolition also allows refugees from war torn Vietnam and other area of SE Asia

Time	Trend	Causes
1980's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Significant decline in Anglicanism. Catholicism becomes the majority Christian religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Less immigration from Great Britain •More Catholic migration from war torn Balkans and Philippines. •Decline in church attendance impacted on Anglican church in this period.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continued growth of Islam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Migration from SE Asia, Balkans and Middle East
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth of Buddhism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth in SE Asian migration especially Indonesia, Malaysia.

Time	Trend	Causes
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in Islam, small increase in Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Invasion of Iraq and subsequent conflict
1990's 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increased Orthodox Christian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Migration from Armenia and Eastern Europe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continued increase in Islam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Migration and refugees from Africa esp Somalia, Ethiopia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth of Buddhism and diversity of Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chinese migration from Hong Kong and Mainland China and Korea has brought diversity in protestant Christianity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Growth of Sikhism, Hinduism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Immigration from the Indian subcontinent

Other factors.

Make sure you are clear on the meaning of the following and the way that they have impacted on Australia's Religious Landscape

- Secularism
- New Age Philosophies
- Denominational Switching

- And the two that are not explicitly on the syllabus but often get a run!
- Abolition of the White Australia Policy
- Formation of the Uniting Church

Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue

What does the syllabus say?

describe the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia

The National Council of Churches
NSW Ecumenical Council

evaluate the importance of interfaith dialogue in multifaith Australia

Ecumenism

What is Ecumenism?

Ecumenism refers to the movement towards religious unity amongst **Christian** denominations.

It is about:

- acknowledgement that unity in Christ outweighs the diversity in practice and beliefs in Christianity.
- developing opportunities to work, worship and dialogue together.

IT is NOT about:

combining all denominations into one.

Religious traditions other than Christianity.

Ecumenism



Ecumenism

describe the **impact** of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia

The National Council of Churches
NSW Ecumenical Council

Impact... what happens as a result of...

Ecumenism-NSW Ecumenical Council



The NSW Ecumenical Council now called Churches Together NSW ACT is a fellowship of 14 Protestant and Orthodox churches in the state of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Its ecumenical endeavour is about churches working together in mission. This mission has three foundations:

- maintaining “the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace” [Ephesians 4: 3],
- being committed to the Gospel and to
- proclaiming it together, and living out the implications of the Gospel for service in the world.

Ecumenism-NSW Ecumenical Council

The IMPACT..... What do they DO and what has happened as a result?

- **Taize Pilgrimage**

hosted visits from a Brother from the Taize Community in France, as part of our churches' common commitment to a spirituality of peace and reconciliation.

- **Peace and Justice Commission**

Works to enhance outcomes from asylum seekers

Peacemaking: Prayer for International Day of Peace 21 September

Ecumenism-NCCA



The National Council of Churches of Australia

- formed in 1994
- grew from the previous Australian Council of Churches
- comprised of 19 member churches representing the Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant expressions of Christianity.
- works in partnership with state ecumenical councils and it operates through various commissions each which deals with a specific sphere of influence.



National Council of
Churches in Australia

Working Structure of the NCCA

National Forum -- NCCA Executive -- President

GENERAL SECRETARY

SECRETARIAT

General Secretary

Assistant to the General Secretary

Communications Desk

NCCA Communications Officer

Faith & Unity Commission

Secretary

Gender Commission

Chairperson

Social Justice Network (SJN)

Chairperson

Interfaith Dialogue

**Growing Churches in the
Australian Context (GCAC)**

Chairperson

Climate Change Working Group

Chairperson

Safe Church Project

Chairperson

Safe Church Training Agreement

Staff (2)

**Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)**

Conduct of Meetings Working Group

Strategic Planning Working Group

SUPPORT SERVICES

Finance Committee

Director

Accountant

Junior Accountant

Finance Officer

Data Coordinator

Receptionist (2)

Temporary Staff

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
ECUMENICAL
COMMISSION (NATSIEC)**

NATSIEC Commission

Executive Secretary

Education & Advocacy Officer



act for peace

CWS Commission

Executive Director

Policy & Advocacy Director

Refugee Coordinator

*Marketing &
Communications Director*

Fundraising Consultant

Mail & Volunteer Coordinator

*Marketing & Communications
Coordinator*

International Program Director

Program Coordinators (3)

Pacific & Emergency Coordinator



FUNDS

Glenburnie Program

**Ronald Wilson
Ecumenical Leadership Fund
(RWELF)**

Volunteers

MANAGEMENT TEAM - Executive Staff + 2 Staff Representatives

staff working groups for special needs

The NCCA is an associate council of the World Council of Churches, and
a member council of the Christian Conference of Asia

Ecumenism-NCCA

The IMPACT..... What do they DO and what has happened as a result?

- **Faith and unity:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
May 2013
- **Social Justice Network:** Annual Social Justice Statements on pressing issues such as environment , peace , prisons etc.
- **NATSIEC:** National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission of NCCA . Advocacy for indigenous Australians ... recently letter writing campaign in response to Government intervention program in the NT.

Interfaith Dialogue

What is Interfaith Dialogue?

Interfaith dialogue is formal discussion aimed towards developing greater mutual understanding between different religious traditions.

It is about:

- allowing different religions to come to a better appreciation of the uniqueness of each other.
- Education to dispel fear and bigotry
- seeking opportunities to work together on key issues such as Asylum seekers.

It is NOT about:

- making all religions the same
- an attempt to unify different religious traditions, but while respecting the diversity of beliefs it

Interfaith Dialogue



<http://www.affinity.org.au/diocese-iftars-2012/>

Interfaith Dialogue



Interfaith Dialogues in Australia

Uniting Church in Australia Interfaith Dialogues

[UCA National Assembly Christian Jewish Dialogue Working Group](#)

[Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews](#)

[Australian Council of Christians and Jews](#)

[Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations](#)

[Women's Interfaith Network](#)

[Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue](#)

<http://assembly.uca.org.au/rof/interfaith-dialogue/dialogues-in-australia>

Interfaith Dialogue

Evaluate the importance of Interfaith Dialogue

Notice it is NOT the success that you are asked to measure but rather the importance.

Interfaith dialogue is important because it

- Does allow religions to come to a better understanding of each other which increases tolerance. eg education programs run by the ACCJ and State Bodies, Interfaith Iftar 2012 organised by Affinity Intercultural
- Promotes religion as having an important role, even in our increasingly secular Australian society. (Hall 2005)
- Promotes shared prayer and spirituality in times of crisis such as after the Port Arthur Massacre or the Bali Bombings

Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith dialogue is important because it

- creates respect and appreciation for religious diversity which is essential for harmony and peace.
- has worked to break down the stereotypes and prejudice towards Muslims which have been overtly prevalent in Australia since Sept 11 and the Cronulla riots.
- Can build relationships between different religions so they can more often and more effectively speak out on common issues and uphold shared values such as the dignity of the person, the sanctity of human life, care for those in need, justice and peace.

Reconciliation

examine the relationship between Aboriginal

spiritualities and religious **traditions** in the process of Reconciliation

Note: This is NOT necessarily about INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ... you MUST know information about MORE THAN ONE Religious Tradition and HOW the work of that religious tradition for reconciliation relates to indigenous spirituality.

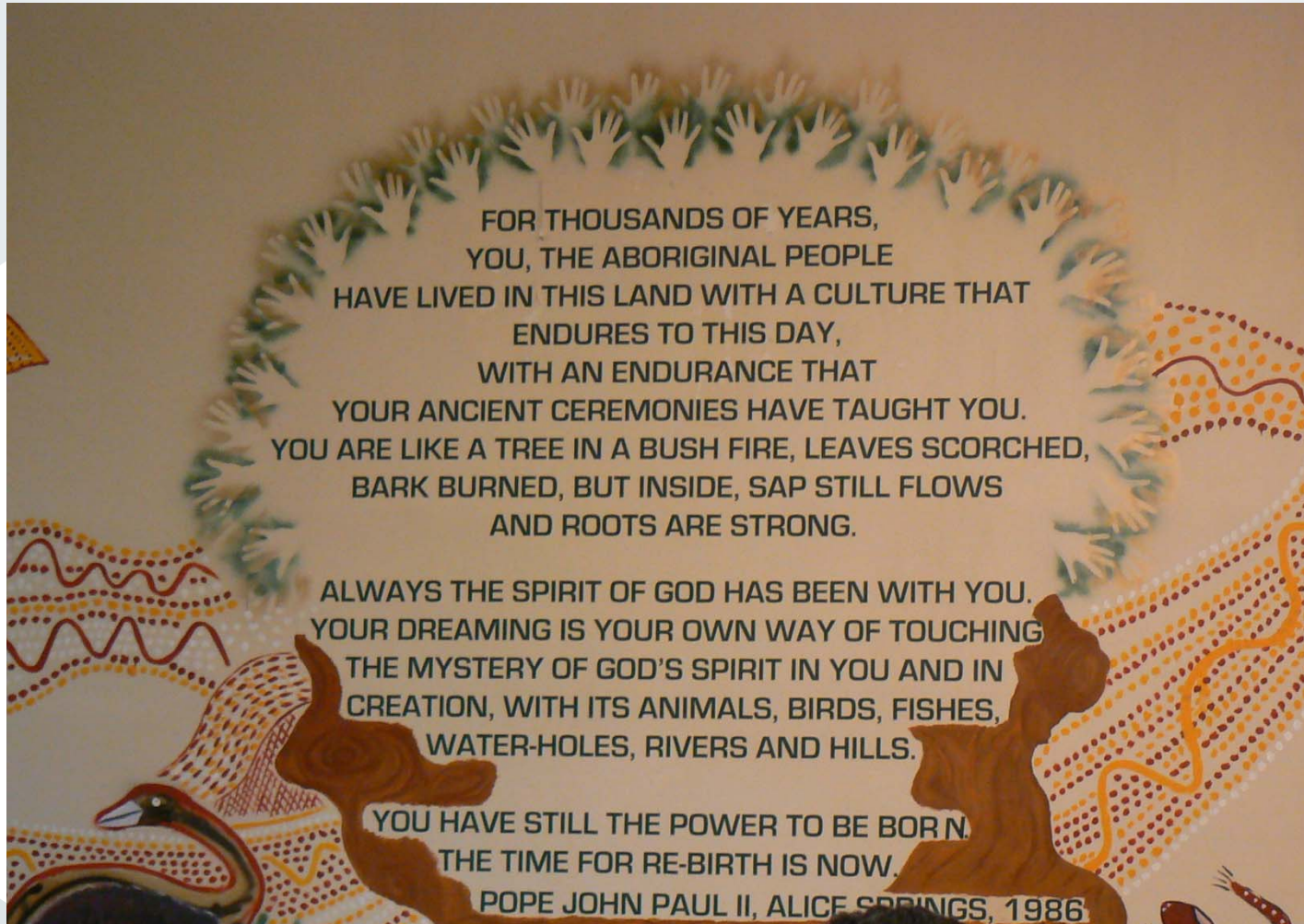
Reconciliation



If you are going to use the SORRY DAY Harbour Bridge walk you **MUST** be able to give evidence of a religious tradition that was involved.

<http://www.historyofaboriginalsydney.edu.au/central/2000s>

Reconciliation



<http://www.historyofaboriginalsydney.edu.au/central/2000s>

Reconciliation

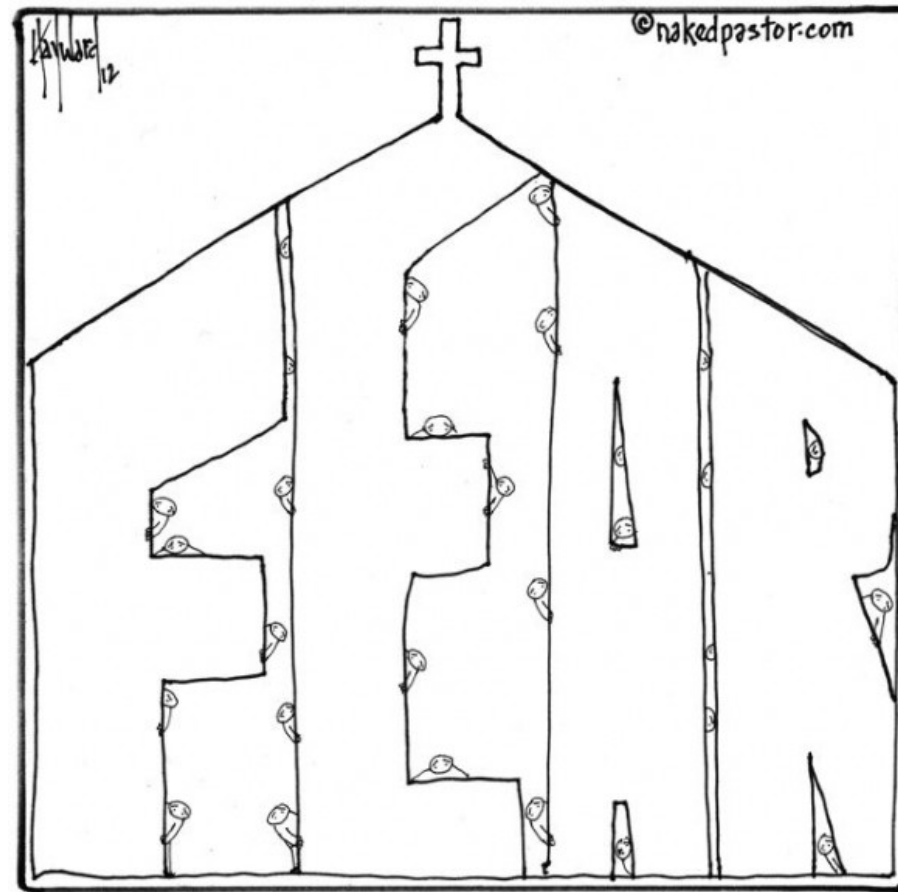


Reconciliation is an issue of the utmost importance

We believe that reconciliation between Australia's indigenous population and other Australians is an issue of the utmost importance for Australia and for humanity. In the context of Jewish moral and religious teachings, we commit ourselves to the principles of reconciliation in all aspects of our lives.

<http://www.nswjbd.org/Statement-on-Reconciliation--reconfirmed-May--08-/default.aspx>

Thank you for listening



<http://kootation.com/nakedpastor-david-hayward-graffiti-artist-on-the-walls-of-religion.html>