

Religion and spirituality in Australia

Results from a survey of Australians

Use this Infographic card to see how people in Australia view God, spirituality and religion.

Come to a better understanding of the experiences, practices and beliefs of Australians.

Discussion starter questions:

- What do these results reveal about people in the Australian community?
- Does any of this information surprise you?
- How might this information affect or shape the way you connect with others in a diverse and changing society?

Source: The **2016 Australian Community Survey** by NCLS Research. A sample of 1258 Australians was drawn from a large online research panel.

www.ncls.org.au/2016-ACS

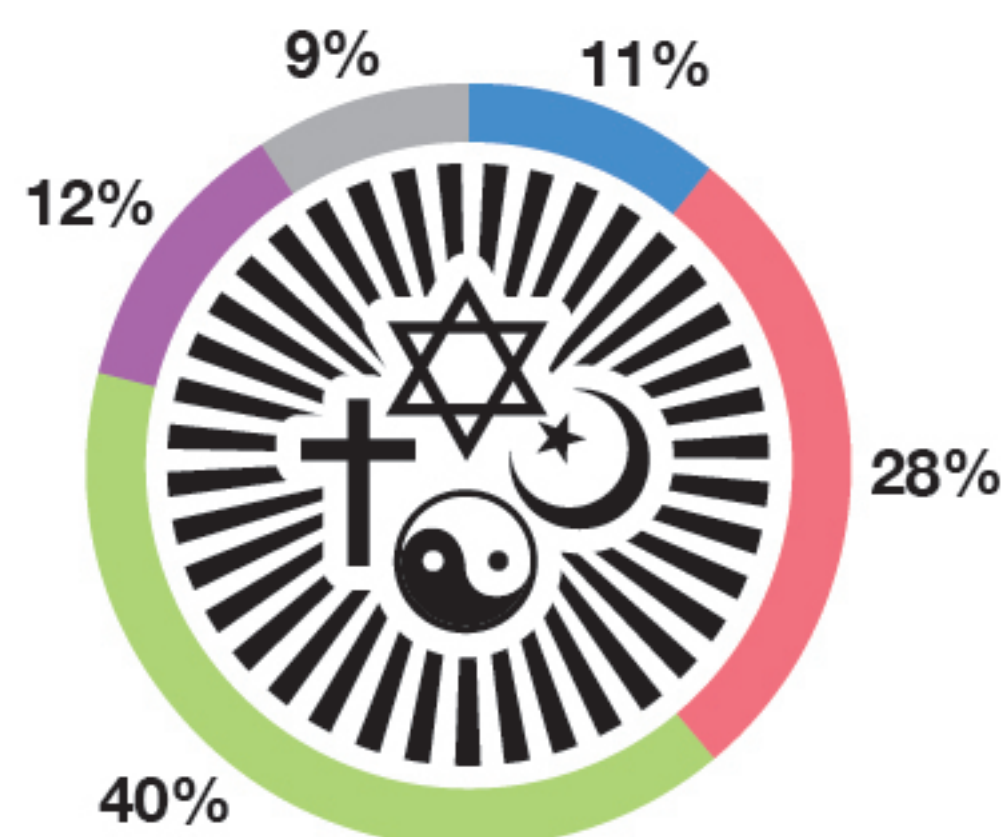
Powell, R. & Pepper, M. (2016). 2016 Australian Community Survey [Data file]. Sydney, Australia: NCLS Research.

Graphics by Edi Sizgoric

View of religion in society

Australians were asked:
Is religion good for society?

Strongly agree Agree Neutral/Unsure Disagree Strongly disagree

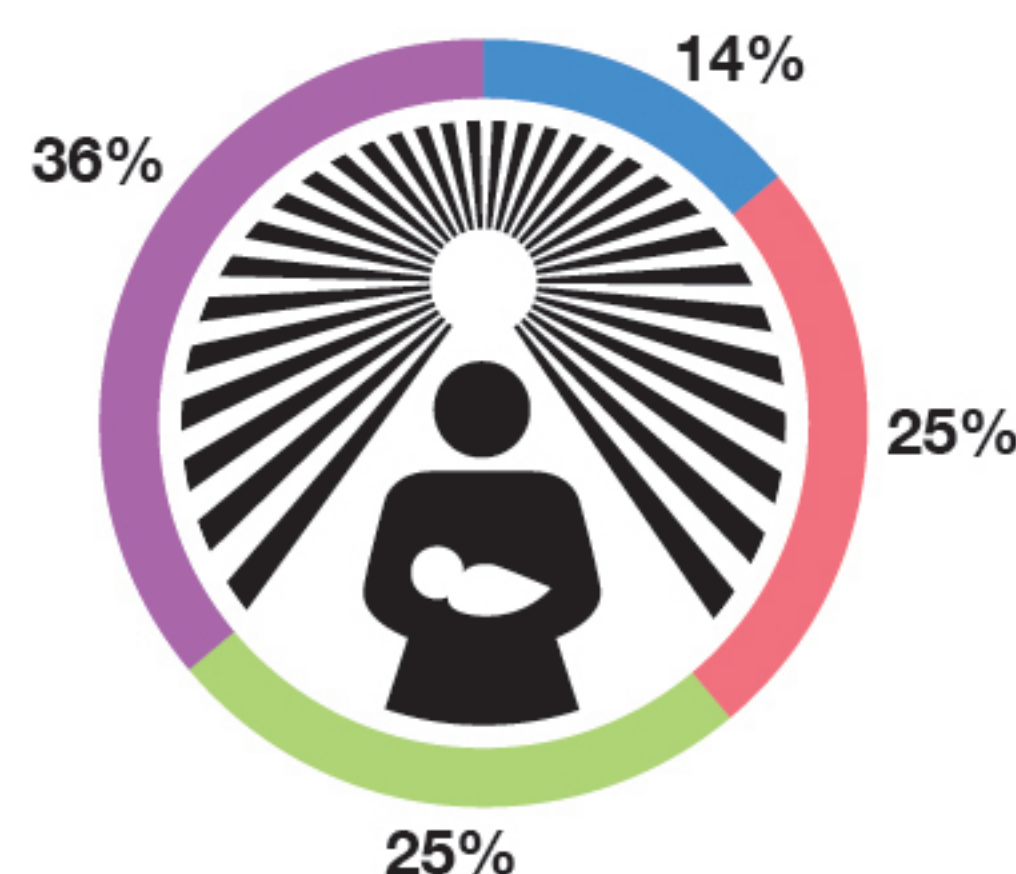


About four in ten Australians agree that religion is good for Australian society and about the same number are neutral or unsure.

The importance of religion/spirituality

Australians were asked:
How important is religious faith or spirituality in shaping life decisions?

Very important Important Of little importance Not important

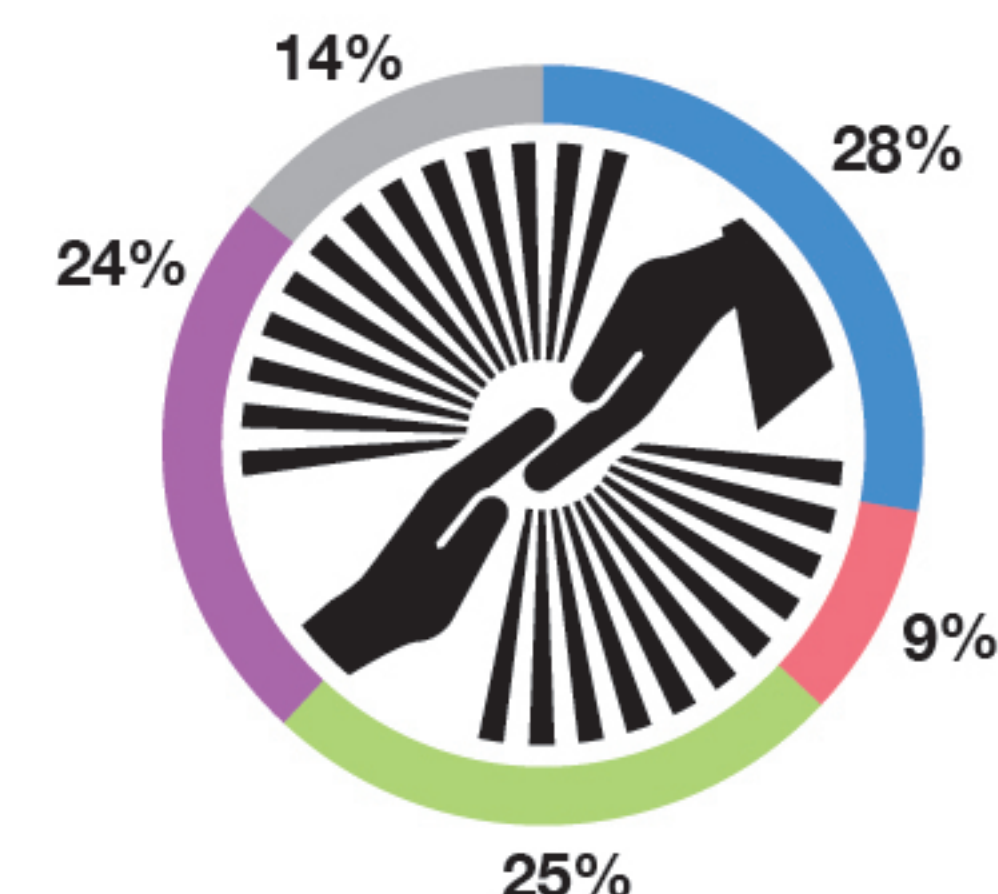


About four in ten Australians say religious faith or spirituality is important in shaping life's decisions.

Religious/spiritual experience

Australians were asked:
Have you ever had a mystical or supernatural experience, about which you have no doubts it was real?

Yes, I have No, but I know someone who has No, but I believe it could happen No, and I don't think such experiences occur Unsure

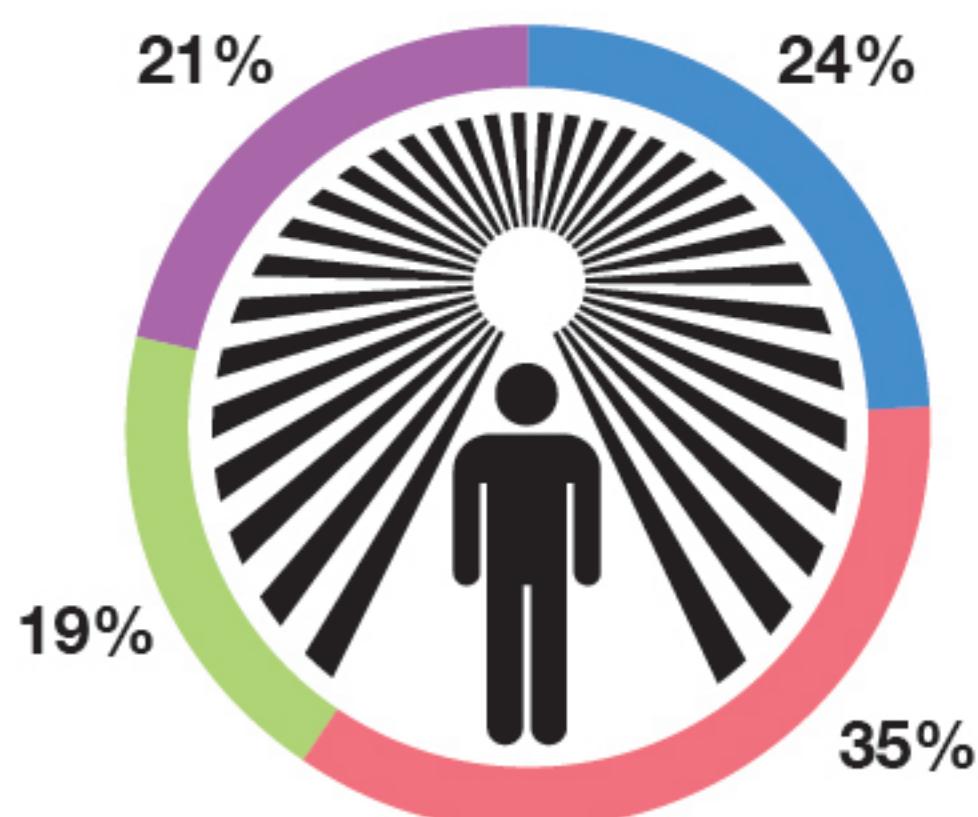
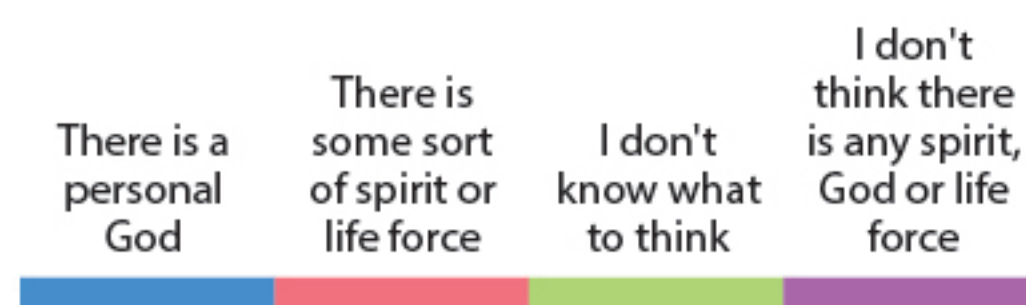


About a quarter of Australians report having had a mystical or supernatural experience. A third know someone who has or believe it could happen.

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Spiritual belief

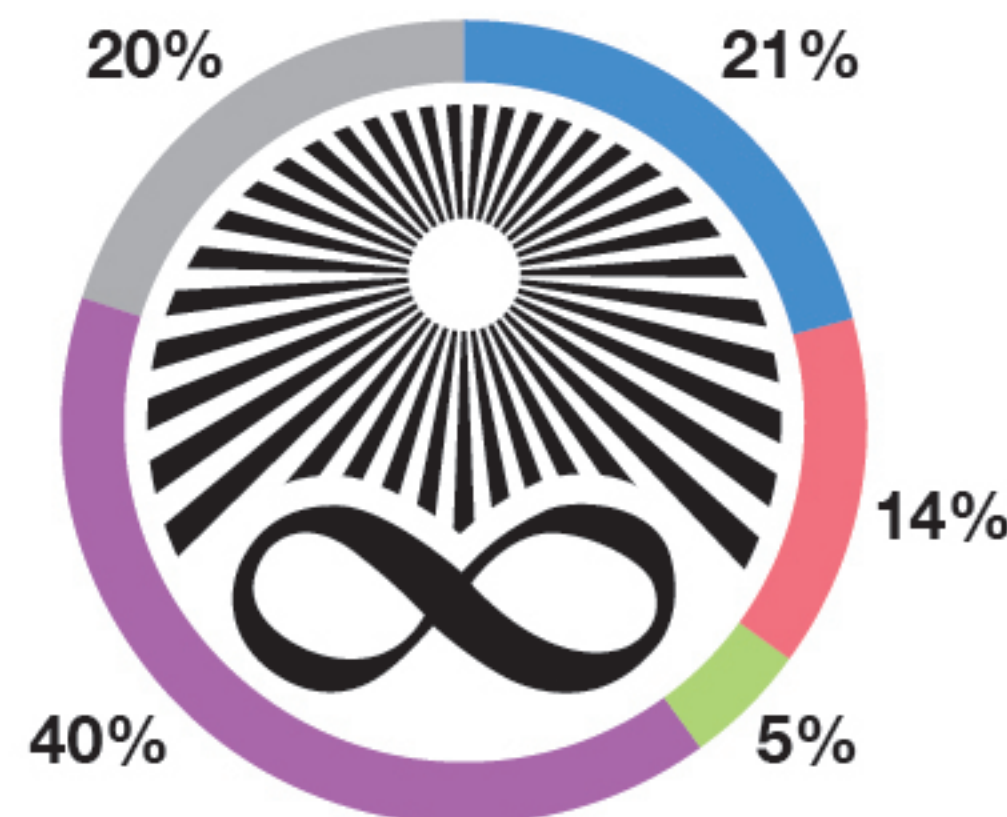
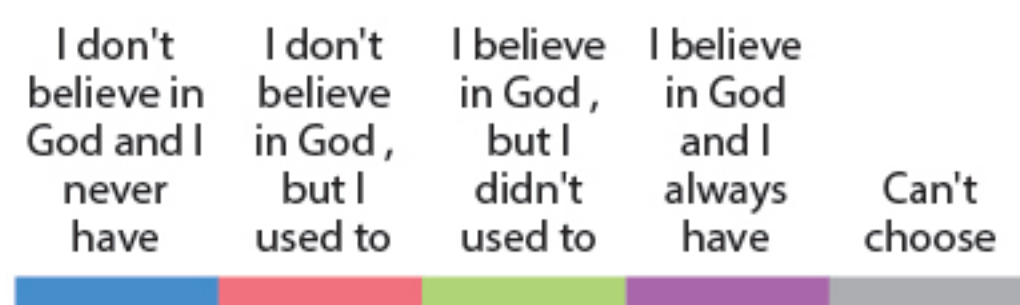
Australians were asked:
Which of these comes closest to your belief?



About six in ten Australians believe there is a God or spirit or life force.

Belief about God

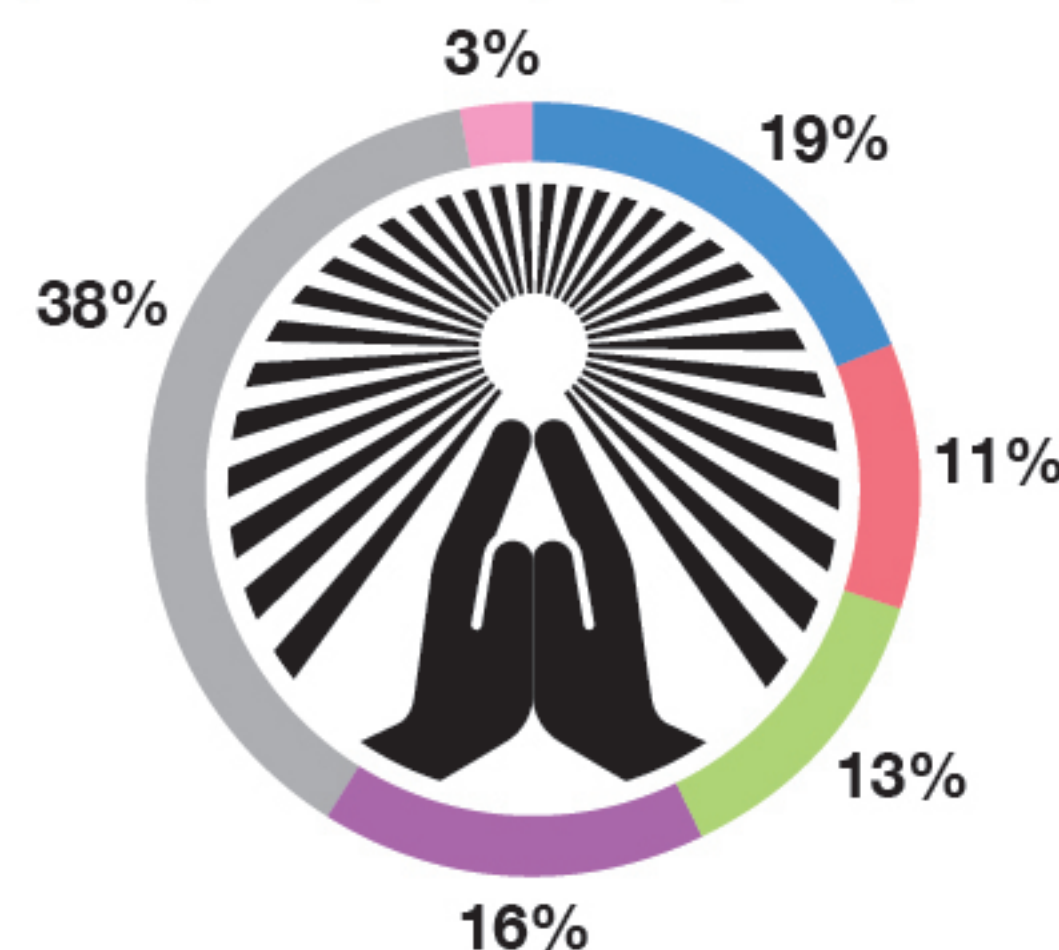
Australians were asked:
Which best describes your belief about God?



Nearly half of Australians believe in God.

Private religious/spiritual practice

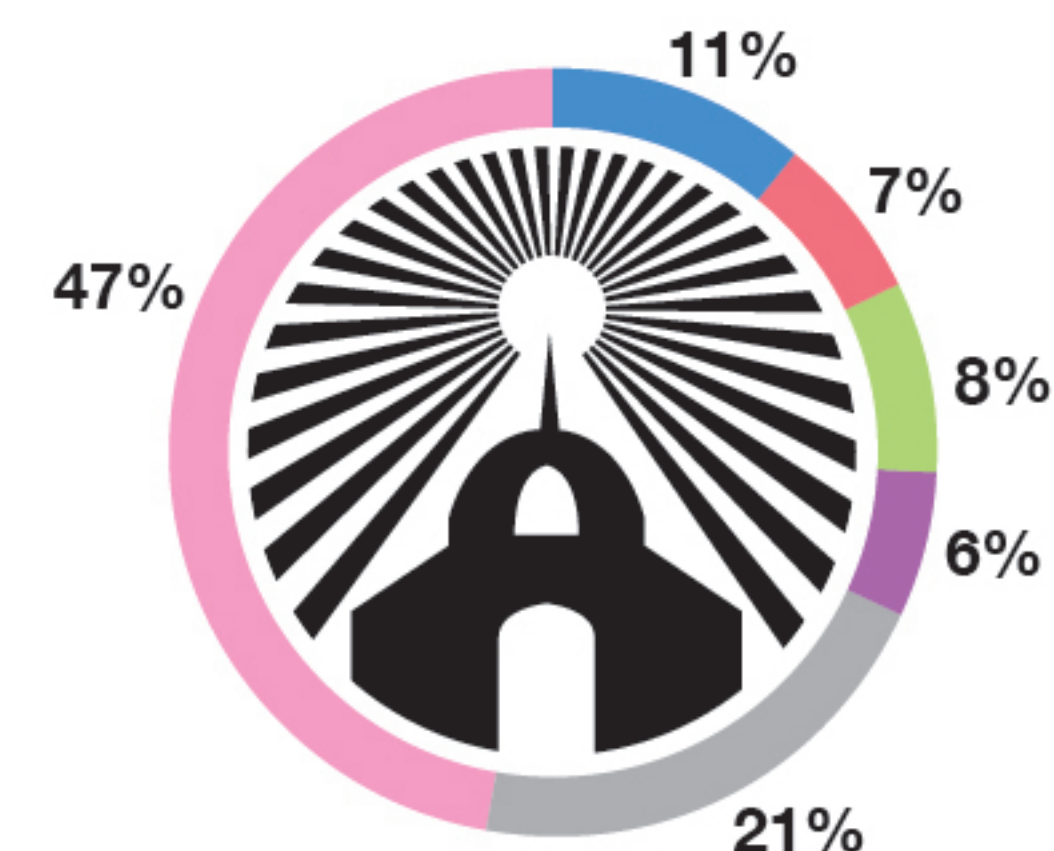
Australians were asked:
How often do you pray or meditate?



Three in ten Australians say they pray or meditate at least once a week.

Public religious/spiritual practice

Australians were asked:
Apart from special occasions how often do you attend religious services?



Less than a fifth of Australians say they attend religious services at least once a month.