

AUSTRALIA: A HISTORY OF RELIGION

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE TOLERANCE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

50,000 years ago

50,000 years ago: Aboriginal people migrate from Asia
 Aboriginal mythology flourishes and forms some of the earliest records of religious practice in humans.
 The Dreamtime formed a powerful oral tradition providing guidance on governing laws and rules for social behavior.



1720

Initial contact with Islam
 Christianity introduced with the arrival of the First Fleet of British convicts. Australia was now a Christian society.



1778

Christianity is introduced
 Christianity introduced with the arrival of the First Fleet of British convicts. Australia was now a Christian society.



Photo: State Library of Victoria

Judaism is introduced
 Judaism was also introduced to Australia as 8 convicts identified as Jews



Photo: Chabad.org

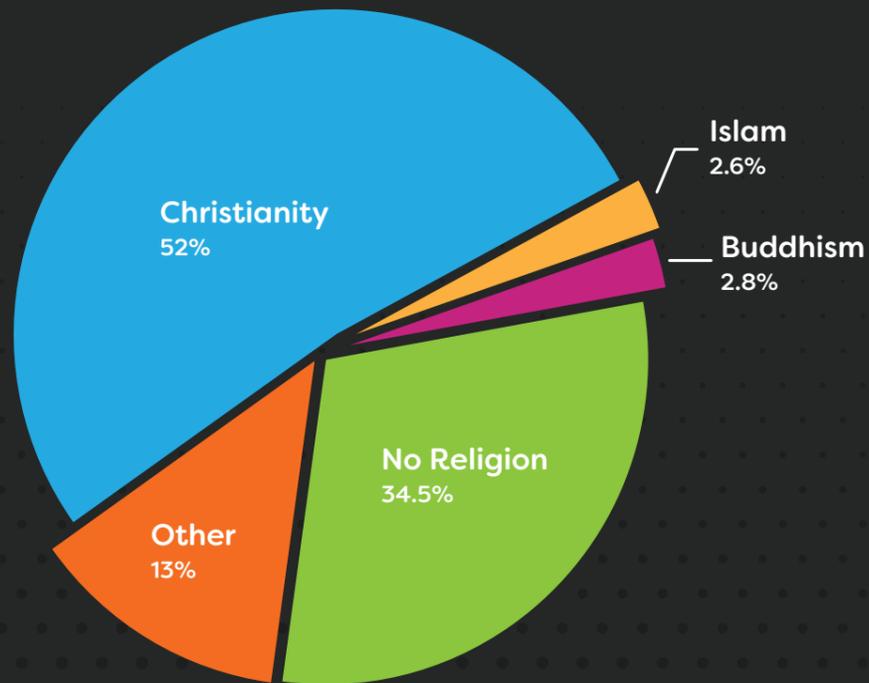
1852

Christianity expands diversely
 The Gold Rush led to a radical increase in immigration, with new settlers bringing their own traditions such as Irish Catholicism, Scottish Presbyterianism and English Anglicanism



Australia has always tolerated different religions. They haven't threatened the Rule of Law in the past and they won't in the future. Below is an indication of the break down of Religion in Australia today.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016



1901

Section 116 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all Australians

1860

Hinduism and Islam are introduced
 The 'Afghan cameleers' immigrated from British India working on cotton and sugar plantation. This introduced Islam and Hinduism to Australia



Photo: State Library of South Australia

1853

Chinese Miners introduce Buddhism
 Influx of approximately 7000 Chinese miners introducing Buddhism to Australia. The majority of workers returned to their villages in China a few years later




About the Middle Ground

The Middle Ground is an online portal and project which seeks to help young Australians in different parts of the community understand each other better in light of their respective contexts and challenges. The aim is to assist Australians articulate their thoughts productively without fear of ostracization, and to elevate the public discussion on key social and political issues.

For more, visit www.middleground.org.au