Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post – 1945
The Religious Landscape

Elizabeth Alderton
St Ursula’s College Kingsgrove
Two Strands

Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to the present
And how did it get to be that way?

Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post 1945

Aboriginal Spirituality

Census
Immigration
Secularism
New Age
Denominational Switching

Ecumenism
Interfaith Dialogue

Reconciliation

Dreaming
Dispossession
Land Rights
Today’s Focus

Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post 1945

Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to the present
And how did it get to be that way?

Census
Immigration
Secularism
New Age
Denominational Switching
Ecumenism
Interfaith Dialogue
Reconciliation
Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post 1945
What does the syllabus ask explicitly?

Syllabus

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.....

Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to 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

**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 spiritualties and religious traditions in the process of Reconciliation
Skills expected of you

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

Content familiarity IS important but it is what you DO with it that matters
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
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### Census 1947-2011~Non Christian

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<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
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</table>
This graph is very straightforward. It represents Religious Traditions in Australia 2011.
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.
### Religion Top 20 Australia

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<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
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<td>25.8%</td>
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<td>Anglican</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniting Church</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian and Reformed</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Christian, nfd</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh-day Adventist</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Protestant</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter-day Saints</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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Religious expression in Australia – 1945 to the present

Returning to the syllabus

Outline
• What happened?
• Which religion? Christianity or another religious tradition? Which denomination?
• When did it happen?
• How much happened?
• Did it go up or down?
• Fastest/slowest?
• Is the change relative or absolute?
Changes: Relative and Absolute

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<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Growth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘000</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>‘000</td>
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Changes: Relative and Absolute

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Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to the present

Over to you
Can you answer these with reference to Australia post 1945?
1. Largest religious tradition
2. Smallest religious tradition
3. Fastest growing religious tradition
4. Fastest declining Christian denomination
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
  - Formation of the Uniting Church

Specific evidence /reasons needed for each.
Role of Immigration

http://www.theideal.com.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Causes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945 - 1960’s</td>
<td>• Increase in Catholicism from 20%-24%</td>
<td>• Post WWII migration from southern European countries eg Italy, Malta</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Middle eastern Conflict sees increase in Lebanese Catholic migrants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rise of Orthodoxy from 0.2%-1.6%</td>
<td>• Post war migration from Orthodox countries especially Greece</td>
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<td>1970’s</td>
<td>• Islam becomes 0.3% of Population</td>
<td>• Abolition of the White Australia Policy 1972 allows more Middle Eastern Immigrants escaping war.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Continued increase in Catholicism peaking @ 27%</td>
<td>• White Australia Policy abolition also allows refugees from war torn Vietnam and other area of SE Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980’s</td>
<td>• Significant decline in Anglicanism.</td>
<td>• Less immigration from Great Britain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catholicism becomes the majority Christian religion</td>
<td>• More Catholic migration from war torn Balkans and Philippines.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Decline in church attendance impacted on Anglican church in this period.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Continued growth of Islam</td>
<td>• Migration from SE Asia, Balkans and Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Growth of Buddhism</td>
<td>• Growth in SE Asian migration especially Indonesia, Malaysia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>• Increase in Islam, small increase in Christianity</td>
<td>• Invasion of Iraq and subsequent conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990’s</td>
<td>• Increased Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>• Migration from Armenia and Eastern Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>• Continued increase in Islam</td>
<td>• Migration and refugees from Africa esp Somalia, Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Growth of Buddhism and diversity of Christianity</td>
<td>• Chinese migration from Hong Kong and Mainland China and Korea has brought diversity in protestant Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Growth of Sikhism, Hinduism</td>
<td>• Immigration from the Indian subcontinent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Secularism.
Secularism.

What is it?

Where is the evidence for increased secularism?

What impact has that had on the religious landscape in Australia?
Secularism.

61.1% Christianity

7.3% All other religions combined

Christians

↓ 22%

Church attendance

↓ 48%

No religion

↑ 269%

Last 4 decades

2011 Census

Secularism.

Secularism.

New Age Philosophies.

http://www.realmagick.com/new-age-movement
New Age Philosophies.

What are they?

Where is the evidence for participation in new age philosophies?

What impact has that had on the religious landscape in Australia?
New Age Philosophies.

http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/n/new_age_hippie.asp
Denominational Switching
Denominational Switching
Denominational Switching

What is it?

Where is the evidence for denominational switching?

What impact has that had on the religious landscape in Australia?
Denominational Switching

WE ARE LEAVING, BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIKE THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE

WE ARE ARRIVING, BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIKE THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE ELSEWHERE

CartoonChurch.com
Religious Landscape
Applying Your Understanding

2010 HSC Question Four

What is the main function of the National Council of Churches?

(A) To promote ecumenism
(B) To prevent secularisation
(C) To promote reconciliation
(D) To prevent denominational switching
2014 HSC Question One

Which of the following is a common characteristic of New Age religions?

(A) They value ecumenism.
(B) They all reject materialism.
(C) They focus on the spiritual needs of their adherents.
(D) They integrate all non-Christian religions into a common set of beliefs.
2014 HSC Question Eight

Statement 1: The Anglican Church is the largest Christian denomination in Australia.

Statement 2: The majority of Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists merged to form the Uniting Church in Australia.

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.
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...
The NSW Ecumenical Council, now called Churches Together NSW ACT, is a fellowship of 16 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.

- **Peace and Justice Commission**
  Works to enhance outcomes from asylum seekers
  Peacemaking: Prayer for International Day of Peace 21 September
Achieving Peace with Justice

A forum hosted by the NSW Ecumenical Council in partnership with faith based organisations.

We need to affirm and strengthen our faith and commitment for “the long haul”, striving for peace and justice.

Speakers:
• Dr John Falzon, CEO St Vincent de Paul Society, member of Government Advisory Committees, media commentator, poet, author of ‘The Language Of The Unheard’ (2012).
• Joseph Wakim, OAM, independent writer on human rights, founder of the Australian Arab Council, former Victorian Multicultural Affairs Commissioner, author of ‘Sorry We Have No Space’ (2013).
• Professor Marion Maddox, Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University, author of ‘God Under Howard’ (2005) and ‘Taking God To School’ (2014).

When: Friday 29 August 2014
Registration from 10am
Day Program: 11am - 4.30pm
Dinner and Speaker: 6pm
Where: Santa Sabina College Hall,
The Boulevarde, Strathfield

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.
Working Structure of the NCCA

National Forum -- NCCA Executive -- President

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

GENERAL SECRETARY

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)
NATSIECommission
   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)

MANAGEMENT TEAM - Executive Staff + 2 Staff Representatives
   staff working groups for special needs

Volunteers

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?

• **Raise your Voice Not the Sea Level:** A World Environment Day 2014 initiative calling on member churches in Australia.

• **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 respecting the diversity of beliefs
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

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
	extamine the relationship between Aboriginal spiritualties 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.

Reconciliation

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, YOU, THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE HAVE LIVED IN THIS LAND WITH A CULTURE THAT ENDURES TO THIS DAY, WITH AN ENDURANCE THAT YOUR ANCIENT CEREMONIES HAVE TAUGHT YOU. YOU ARE LIKE A TREE IN A BUSH FIRE, LEAVES SCORCHED, BARK BURNED, BUT INSIDE, SAP STILL FLOWS AND ROOTS ARE STRONG.

 ALWAYS THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS BEEN WITH YOU. YOUR DREAMING IS YOUR OWN WAY OF TOUCHING THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S SPIRIT IN YOU AND IN CREATION, WITH ITS ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISHES, WATER-HOLES, RIVERS AND HILLS.

YOU HAVE STILL THE POWER TO BE BORN THE TIME FOR RE-BIRTH IS NOW.

POPE JOHN PAUL II, ALICE SPRINGS, 1986

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
And so…….
Yes there is some... but

http://www.beyonddegree.com/reduce-prevent-cope-stress/
Thank you for listening

KEEP CALM AND STUDY SOR