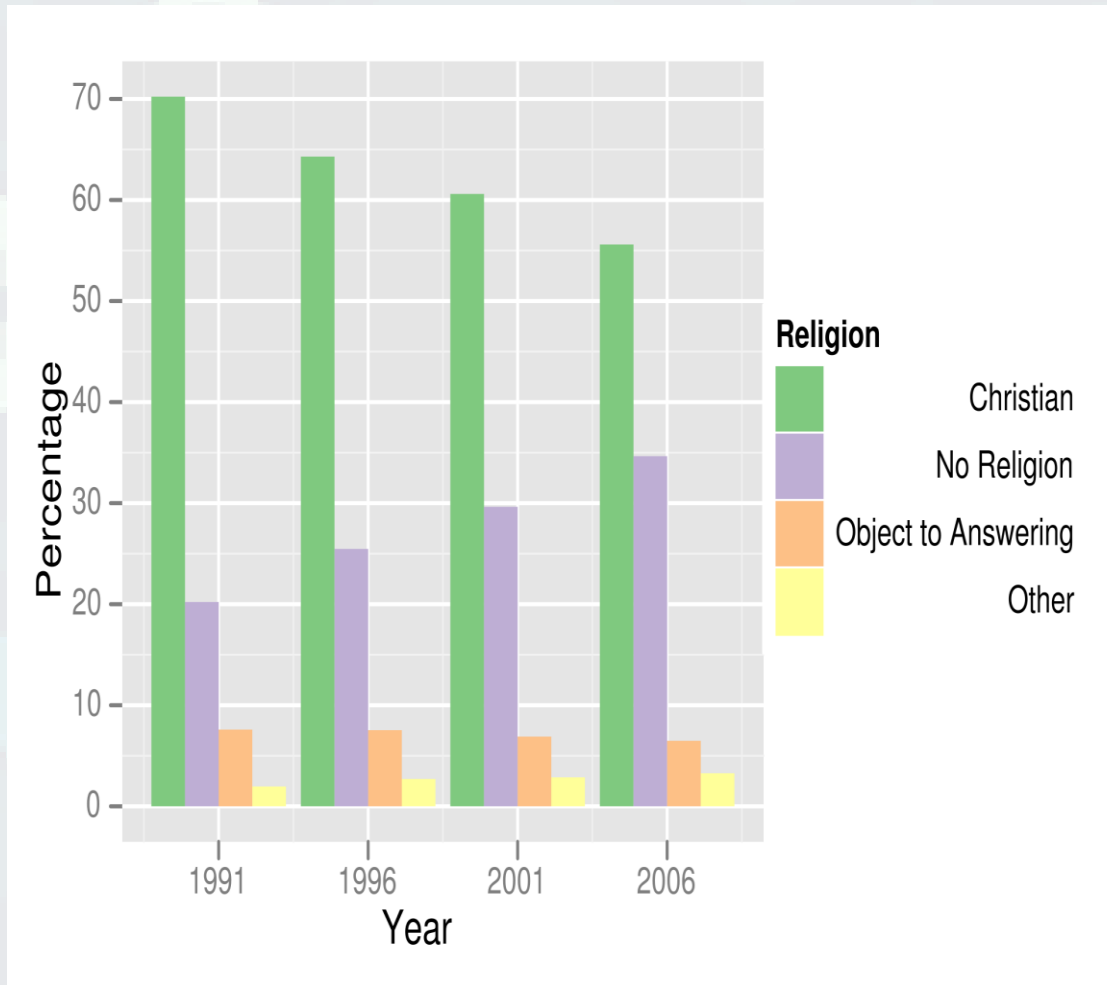




# Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Witness of Faith

*Statistics on Religion in New Zealand*

# Religion in New Zealand



## A snapshot from 2006

Christian (56%)  
No religion (32%)  
Undeclared (7%)  
Hinduism (1.5%)  
Buddhism (1.5%)  
Other religions (2%)

### *Christian breakdown*

*Protestant 39%*  
*Catholic 12%*  
*Pentecostal 3%*  
*Maori Christian 2%*

### On being 'Jedi'

As an example of how seriously many NZers take religion, and encouraged by an informal email campaign, over 53,000 people listed themselves as 'Jedi' in the 2001 census (over 1.5% of responses). If the Jedi response had been accepted as valid it would have been the second largest religion in New Zealand. However, Statistics New Zealand treated Jedi responses as 'Answer understood, but will not be counted'. The city of Dunedin (a university town) had the highest population of reported Jedi per capita. In the 2006 census only 20,000 people gave Jedi as their religion.

## Cultural diversity snapshot: *an overview*

As always, the changing religious landscape reflects and partly constitutes other cultural shifts. NZ is increasingly:

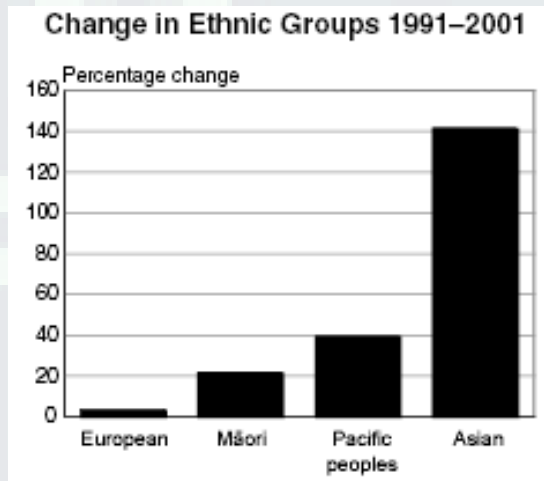
- *ethnically diverse*
- *multilingual*
- *older*
- *female*
- *religiously diverse*



**NZ Diversity Action**

te ranga tahi, together we grow

## Cultural diversity snapshot: *Increasing ethnic diversity*



Ethnic Group	2001 Count	Percentage increase from 1991
Korean	19,026	1,946
Arab	2,856	1,514
Croat	2,502	1,363
Iraqi	2,145	772
South African	14,889	642
Russian	3,084	543

- *More Asians than Pasifika. Almost 240,000 (1 in 15) are of Asian ethnicity. This figure more than doubled between 1991 and 2001. There were 231,801 people of Pacific peoples ethnicity.*
- *Less Europeans (from 83% in 1991 to less than 80% in 2006).*
- *1 in 7 people (526,281) are of Māori ethnicity.*
- *2/3 of Asians live in the Auckland area, and 1/8 live in the Wellington area.*
- *2/3 of Pasifika live in the Auckland area.*
- *In Auckland – 1/8 people are Asian, 1/8 are Pasifika and 1/10 are Māori.*
- *In Gisborne – nearly 9/20 are Māori.*
- *In 2001 20% of NZ residents were born overseas (compared with 1/6 in 1991 and 1/3 in 1901). These were mainly from England, Australia, Samoa, China and Scotland. In the Auckland region, 1/3 were born overseas, and 1/9 were born in Asia.*

## Cultural diversity snapshot: *More multi-lingual*

- The number of multilingual people increased by 20% since 1996 (562,113 or nearly 1/6).
- English is the predominant language spoken.
- Excluding children under 5 years of age, 1 in 50 people do not speak English.
- The languages most widely spoken after English were:



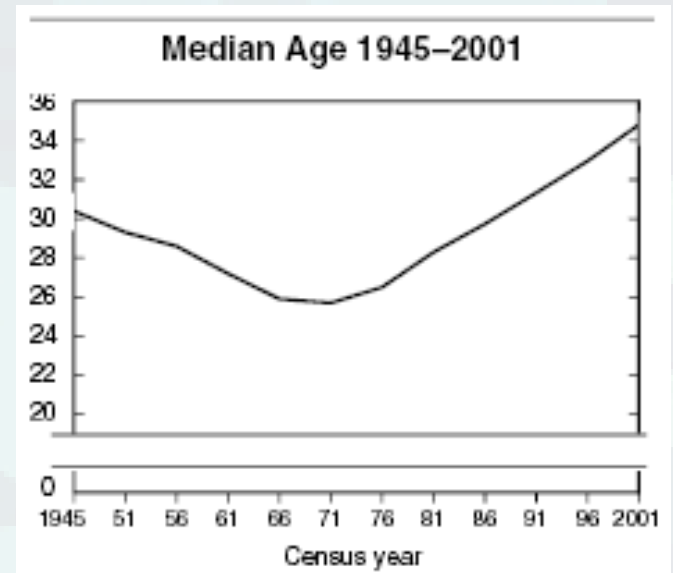
Language	Count
Māori	160,527
Samoan	81,036
French	49,722
Yue (Cantonese)	37,143
German	33,981

English (official) 91.2%, Maori (official) 3.9%, Samoan 2.1%, French 1.3%, Hindi 1.1%, Yue 1.1%, Northern Chinese 1%, other 12.9%, New Zealand Sign Language (official)  
**note:** shares sum to 114.6% due to multiple responses on census (2006 Census)



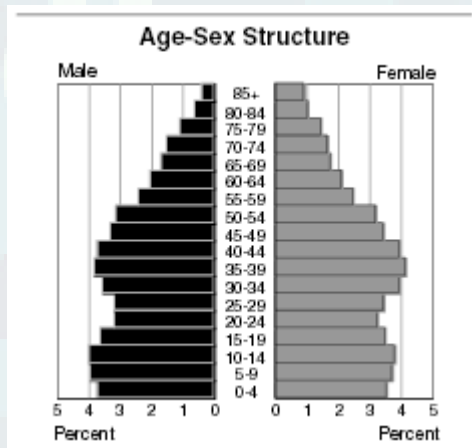
## Cultural diversity snapshot: *an ageing population*

- Between 1991 and 2001, the median age increased from 31 to 35 years. (In 1901, the median age was 22!)
- 1/8 aged 65+ years:
  - 1/6 in the Marlborough area
  - 1/10 in the Auckland region
- The Gisborne region has the highest proportion of those aged under 15 years (more than 25%).
- Younger people were more likely to be recorded as having no religion. 43.0% children (0–14 years) recorded as having no religion, compared with 11.8% of those 65+ years old



## Cultural diversity snapshot: *gender*

- 95.2 males for every 100 females [In the 1901 Census there were 111 males to every 100 females].
- Of those people aged 85+, 70% are female.
- The West Coast is the only region where the count of males exceeds the count of females.



at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female  
under 15 years: 1.05 male(s)/female  
15-64 years: 1 male(s)/female  
65 years and over: 0.85 male(s)/female  
total population: 0.99 male(s)/female (2011 est.)

## Cultural diversity snapshot: *religious diversity*

*Between 2001–2006, immigrant religions increased fastest:*

**Sikh** ↑ 83% (9,507)

**Hindu** ↑ 61.9% (64,392) – 49.8% had arrived in NZ less than five years ago

**Islam** ↑ 53% (36,072) – 48% had arrived in NZ less than five years ago

**Buddhist** ↑ 25.8% (52,392) – 36.1% of overseas-born Buddhists arrived in NZ less than five years ago

**No religion** ↑ (20%)

**Christianity** ↓ (10%)



*72% believe in a higher power, 15% agnostic, 13% atheist (margin of error, 3%)*



# Religious affiliation in New Zealand

	2006		2001		1996	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Anglican	554,925	14.7	584,793	16.7	631,764	18.8
Roman Catholic	508,437	13.4	485,637	13.9	473,112	14.1
Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed	400,839	10.6	431,139	12.3	470,442	14.0
Christian (not further defined)	186,234	4.9	192,165	5.5	186,891	5.6
Methodist	121,806	3.2	120,546	3.4	121,650	3.6
Pentecostal	79,155	2.1	67,182	1.9	69,333	2.1
Baptist	56,913	1.5	51,423	1.5	53,613	1.6
Latter-day Saints	43,539	1.2	39,915	1.1	41,166	1.2
Brethren	19,617	0.5	20,397	0.6	21,933	0.7
Jehovah's Witness	17,910	0.5	17,829	0.5	19,527	0.6
Adventist	16,191	0.4	14,868	0.4	14,691	0.4
Evangelical	13,836	0.4	11,016	0.3	1,584	0.0
Orthodox Christianity	13,194	0.3	9,576	0.3	6,933	0.2
Salvation Army	11,493	0.3	12,618	0.4	14,625	0.4
Other Christian	16,830	0.4	15,513	0.4	16,734	0.5
Ratana (Maori Christian)	50,565	1.3	48,975	1.4	36,450	1.1
Ringatu (Maori Christian)	16,419	0.4	15,291	0.4	8,271	0.2
Other Maori Christian	579	0.0	660	0.0	729	0.0
<b>Christian total</b>	2,027,418	53.6	2,043,843	58.4	2,143,995	63.8
Hindu	64,392	1.7	39,798	1.1	25,551	0.8
Buddhist	52,362	1.4	41,634	1.2	28,131	0.8
Muslim	36,072	1.0	23,631	0.7	13,545	0.4
Spiritualism and New Age religions	19,800	0.5	16,062	0.5	9,786	0.3
Sikh	9,507	0.3	5,199	0.1	2,817	0.1
Jewish	6,858	0.2	6,636	0.2	4,809	0.1
Other religions	14,952	0.4	13,581	0.4	7,359	0.2
<b>Non-Christian religions total</b>	203,934	5.4	146,544	4.2	91,998	2.7
No religion	1,297,104	34.3	1,028,049	29.4	867,264	25.8
Not stated/inadequately described	292,974	7.7	287,376	8.2	212,997	6.3
<b>No religion/Not stated total</b>	1,832,688	42.0	1,554,669	37.6	1,336,854	32.1
<b>Total population</b>	4,027,947	100.0	3,737,277	100.0	3,618,303	100.0
<i>Object to answering</i>	242,610	6.4	239,244	6.8	256,593	7.6

## *Muslims in New Zealand*

According to the 2006 census figures there are 37,000 Muslims resident in New Zealand from various ethnic backgrounds, a significant proportion of whom are New Zealand born, including about 4000 that identify as Pakeha and Maori. The community makes up 0.9% of the total New Zealand population of four million. Geographically New Zealand Muslims are predominantly urban, with the largest number in Auckland and smaller concentrations in Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Dunedin, Hastings, Tauranga, New Plymouth, Hawera, Whangarei and Palmerston North. The majority of wage/salary earners are "blue-collar" workers and small business owner/operators, along with a significant group of university-trained professionals and government employees.

## Cultural diversity snapshot: *religious diversity*

‘What is clear is that New Zealand is simultaneously becoming a less religious country, and a more religious one. There was a huge growth (over ¼ million) in people who declared no religion, but also the total number stating a religion increased by nearly 50,000 souls. This 50,000 comprised a decrease of 10,000 Christians combined with an increase of 60,000 from other religions. Thus the number of census Christians has scarcely changed, but the rest of the population has grown around them. The changes suggest increasing religious polarisation. Some atheists and agnostics may seek to increase the secularisation of New Zealand, especially when (if?) Christianity officially loses its majority status. I say ‘officially’ as some who object to stating their religion may still be religious, and not identifying a religion does not mean atheist: but politically it’s the numbers that count. Christians who come under pressure from secularists may unexpectedly find themselves looking to other faith communities for support’. – Barry McDonald, Senior Lecturer in Statistics, Massey University



‘New Zealand is a secular State with no State religion, in which religious and democratic structures are separated. In legislation and policy, the State respects freedom of thought, conscience and religion. There are few constraints on the freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs.

Matters of religion and belief are deemed to be a matter for the private, rather than public, sphere. New Zealand secularism is infused, however, with its Judaeo-Christian origins. For example, Easter and Christmas are observed as public holidays, and Christian prayers often form a part of public ceremonials. There is also a degree of statutory recognition of Māori spiritual beliefs, which are inextricably connected to Māori culture.

Any religious group is free to set up and operate in New Zealand without legal constraints or State interference. However, it is required to conform to the law like everyone else. Parents are free to direct the religious and moral education of their children. Ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are able to profess and practise their own religion’. – Human Rights Commission

### The *Statement on Religious Diversity* (2007) – a summary:

#### 1. **The State and Religion**

The State seeks to treat all faith communities and those who profess no religion equally before the law. New Zealand has no official or established religion.

#### 2. **The Right to Religion**

New Zealand upholds the right to freedom of religion and belief and the right to freedom from discrimination on the grounds of religious or other belief.

#### 3. **The Right to Safety**

Faith communities and their members have a right to safety and security.

#### 4. **The Right of Freedom of Expression**

The right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media are vital for democracy but should be exercised with responsibility.

#### 5. **Recognition and Accommodation**

Reasonable steps should be taken in educational and work environments and in the delivery of public services to recognise and accommodate diverse religious beliefs and practices.

#### 6. **Education**

Schools should teach an understanding of different religious and spiritual traditions in a manner that reflects the diversity of their national and local community.

#### 7. **Religious Differences**

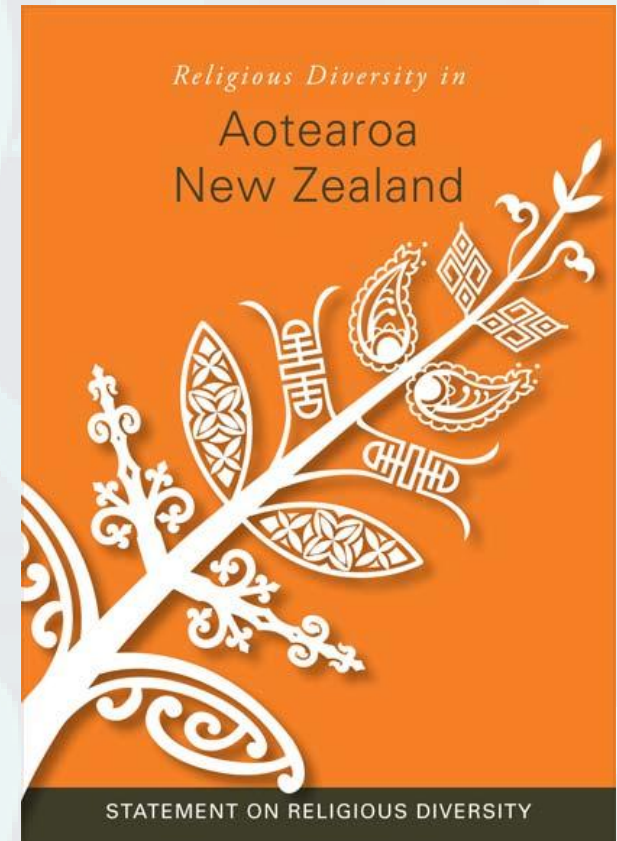
Debate and disagreement about religious beliefs will occur but must be exercised within the rule of law and without resort to violence.

#### 8. **Cooperation and understanding**

Government and faith communities have a responsibility to build and maintain positive relationships with each other, and to promote mutual respect and understanding.

# Religion in New Zealand

‘The Education Act 1964 sets out the secular character of primary schooling and makes provision for religious instruction. Before schools can set time aside for religious instruction, there has to be agreement from the Board of Trustees (Education Act 1964). There is, however, an important distinction between religious instruction and religious education, and education about religions in the school curriculum is an important means of fostering religious understanding and tolerance, and highlighting the universal values expressed by the world’s major religions’. – Human Rights Commission





**Christianity in New Zealand**

**Bishop Brian Tamaki,  
the Vatican rang.  
You made the shortlist.**

**Yeah right.**



# Christianity in New Zealand

## 1870–1940

around 90% of the NZ population affiliated with the Christian religion  
(Anglicans 40%, Presbyterians 20%, Catholics 14%, Methodists 10%, Baptists, Congregationalists, Salvation Army < 10%)

## 2001

60.6% of the NZ population affiliated with a Christian religion

## 2006

55.6% of the NZ population affiliated with a Christian religion

[2006 is the most recent census data]

- Anglicans ↓ 5.1% (↓ 29,868 ) 554,925 in 2006
- Presbyterians ↓ 7.0% (↓ 30,102) 400,839 in 2006  
[<10% for the first time in a century]
- Catholics ↑ 4.7% (↓ 22,797) 508,437 in 2006  
[this was still less than the total population increase]
- Christian Fundamentalists/Pentecostals ↑ 25% 13,936 in 2006

## On Catholic growth and immigration



‘Anecdotally, some of the Catholic growth is due to immigration, so there is no guarantee trends will continue at the same rate. Even if it does, Catholic growth is not keeping up with New Zealand’s population, which grew by 7.8% between 2001 and 2006’. — Barry McDonald, Senior Lecturer in Statistics, Massey University

**Roman Catholicism the most common religious affiliation for Pacific peoples.**

In 2006, 83% of Pacific peoples stated that they had at least one religion, which was higher than for New Zealand overall (61%).

97% of those with at least one religious affiliation identified with the Christian religion.

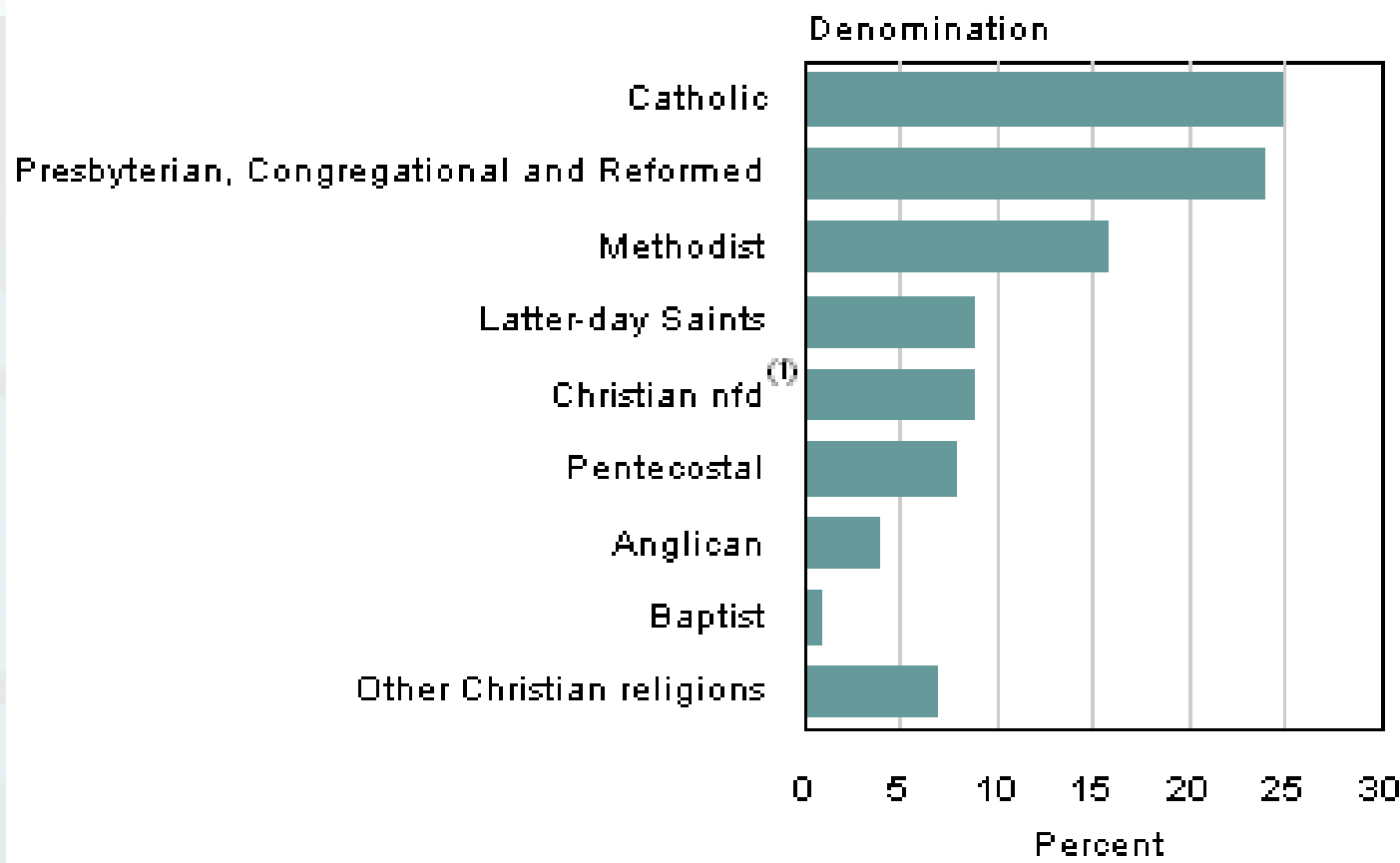
The most common Christian denomination for people of Pacific ethnicity has changed since 2001:

- In 2006, Catholic was the most common Christian denomination for Pacific peoples (49,143 people).
- In 2001, the most common Christian denomination for Pacific peoples was Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed (46,695 people).

The second and third most common Christian denominations for Pacific peoples in 2006 were:

- Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed (48,321 people).
- Methodist (32,271 people).

### Christian Denomination of Pacific Peoples *2006 Census*



(1) Christian, with no denomination stated.

Roman Catholic was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of:

- Samoan ethnicity (29,607).
- Tokelauan ethnicity (2,289).
- Fijian ethnicity (2,016).

Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of:

- Cook Islands Maori ethnicity (15,066).
- Niuean ethnicity (6,771).
- Tuvaluan ethnicity (1,353).

Methodist was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of Tongan ethnicity (18,858).



### Pacific peoples with no religion

In the 2006 Census, 34,833 people (14 percent) of Pacific ethnicity said they had no religion. This has increased from 12 percent in 2001.

Pacific peoples with no religion were:

- Mostly New Zealand-born (about 90%)
- Concentrated in the younger age groups. (50% of Pacific peoples with no religion were aged under 15 years)

