



# **Missional Imagination**

**What is God calling us to be and to do in the 21st Century?**

# Session 3



*What do the neighbours think?  
Understanding our community and context*

# Task

To come up with new ideas for being church in  
the local community.

Use your random word to stimulate new ideas.



Shemomedjamo



Iksuarpok



Pana Po'o





# Ecological Systems Theory



Urie Bronfenbrenner

Who we are, and the actions that we may take,  
is largely influenced by our external environment

Person

Process

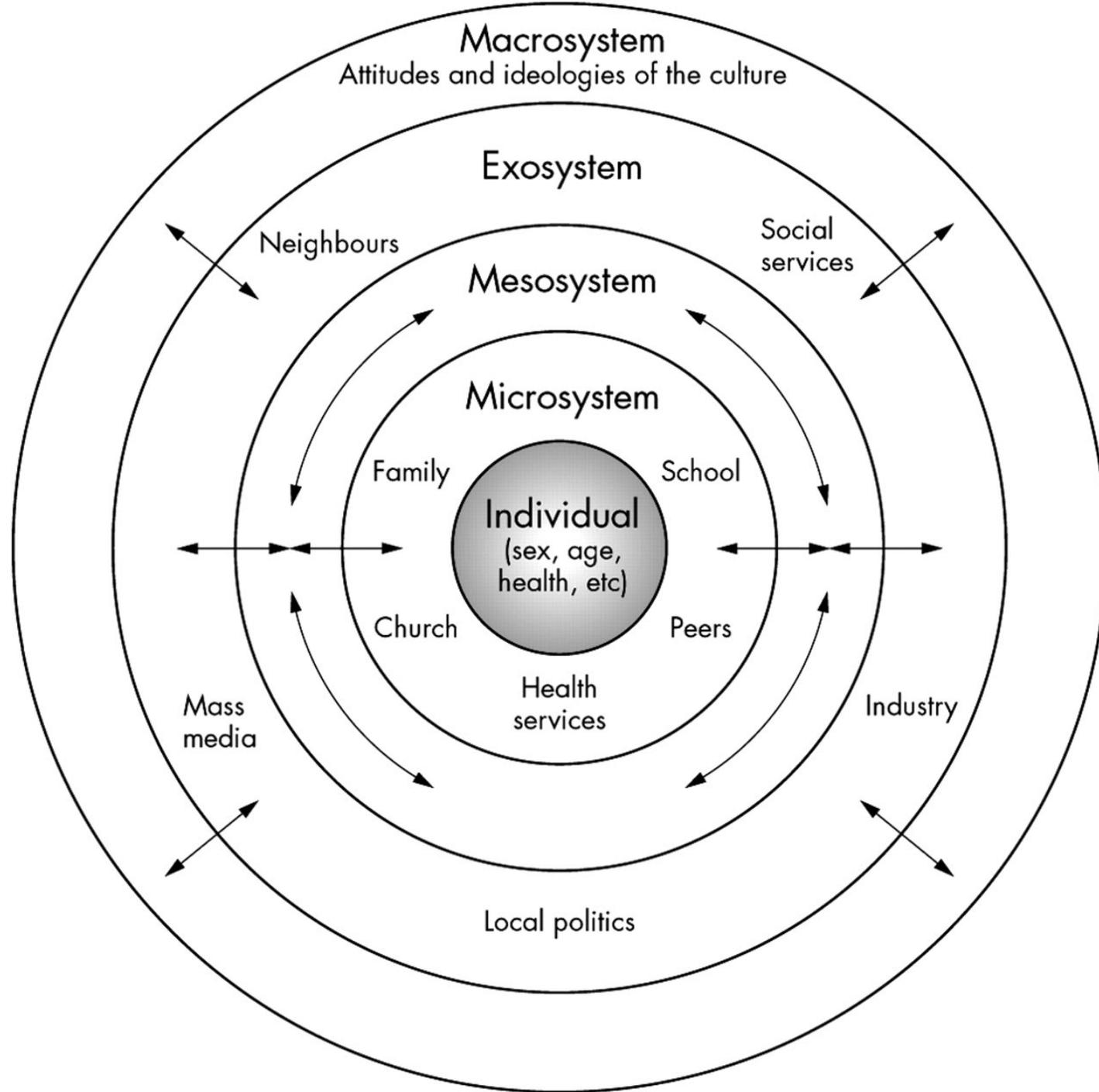
Context

Time



“[H]uman development takes place through processes of progressively more complex reciprocal interaction between an active, evolving biopsychological human organism and the persons, objects, and symbols in its immediate external environment. To be effective, the interaction must occur on a fairly regular basis over extended periods of time. Such enduring forms of interaction in the immediate environment are referred to as proximal processes” (Bronfenbrenner & Morris, 1998, p. 996).

“The form, power, content, and direction of the proximal processes effecting development vary systematically as a joint function of the characteristics of the developing person; of the environment—both immediate and more remote—in which the processes are taking place; the nature of the developmental outcomes under consideration; and the social continuities and changes occurring over time through the life course and the historical period during which the person has lived” (Bronfenbrenner & Morris, 1998).





What are the changes and issues affecting the people you work with in the areas of...

- Technology
- Relationships
- Leisure
- Family
- Society
- Mass Media

How might these changes or issues impact their view of spirituality, church or religion?





Derby

Broome

Fitzroy

Fitzroy Crossing

Tennant Creek

GREAT SANDY DESERT

MARBLE BAR DESERT

MACDONNELL  
Mt. Zia  
4,955

L. Adelaide

Ayers Rock 2,845

Ernabella

A U S T R A L I A

GIBSON DESERT

AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA DESERT

Woolmeera

Woolmeera

Port August

Pt. Pirie

NEW SOUTH WALES

Adelaide

Murray

Hay

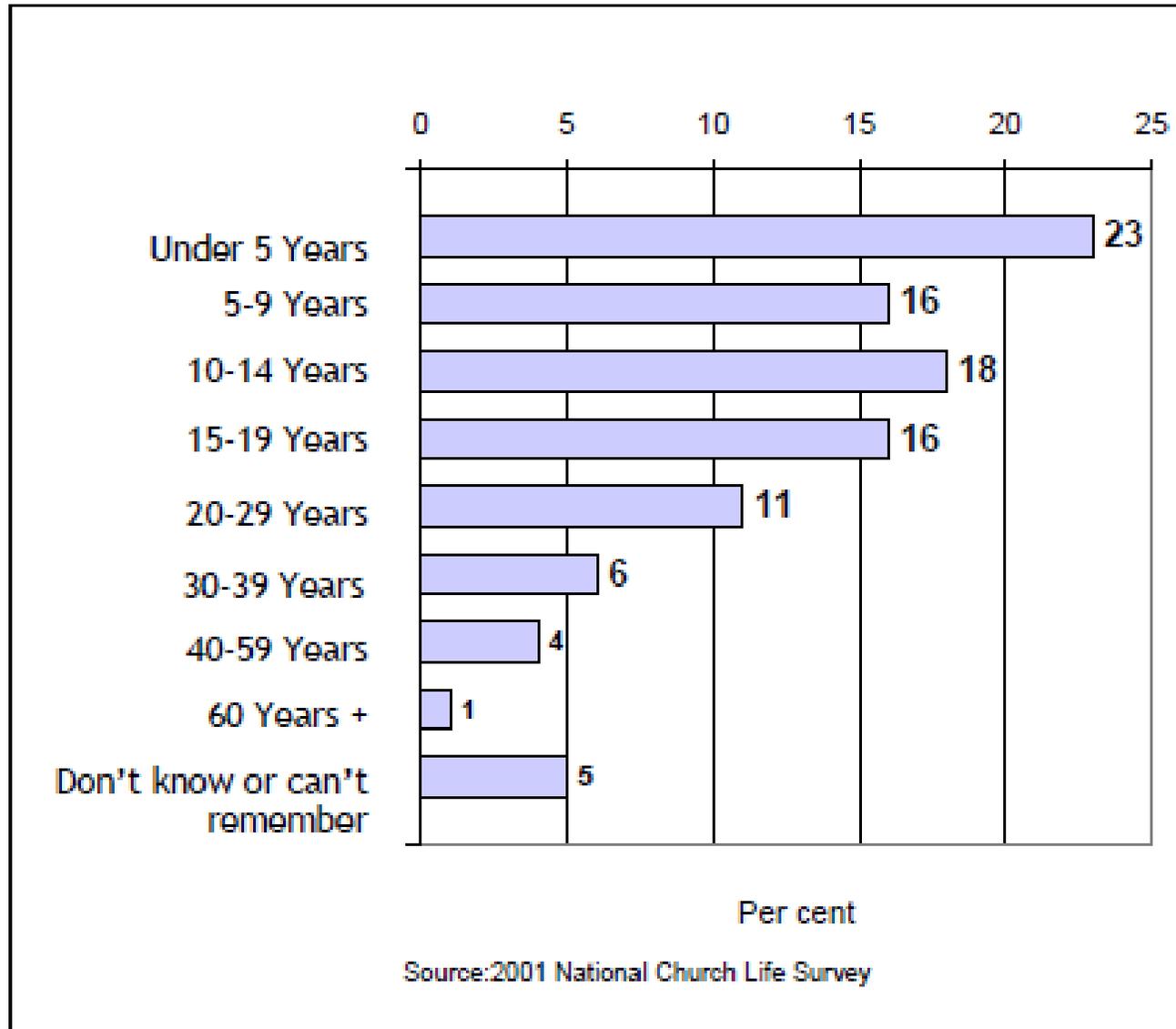
GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

I am a Mormon

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1ULtuajkU&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKloxyibvrc7\\_VcJYJ6qly&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1ULtuajkU&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKloxyibvrc7_VcJYJ6qly&index=3)



Figure 1: Age when first became a Christian



## Stats

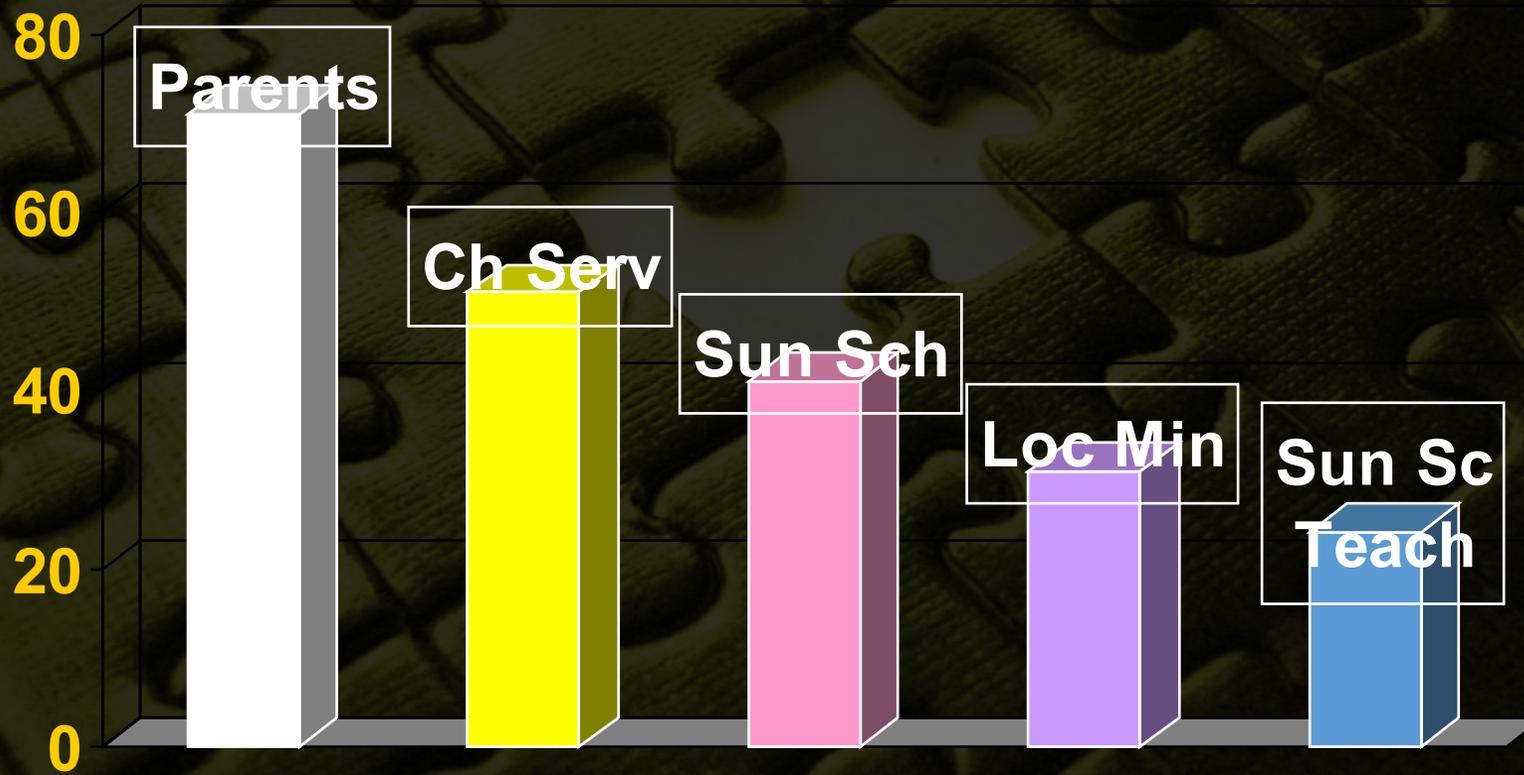
Over 70% of Anglican & Protestant Believers became Christians before 20.

39% before age 10

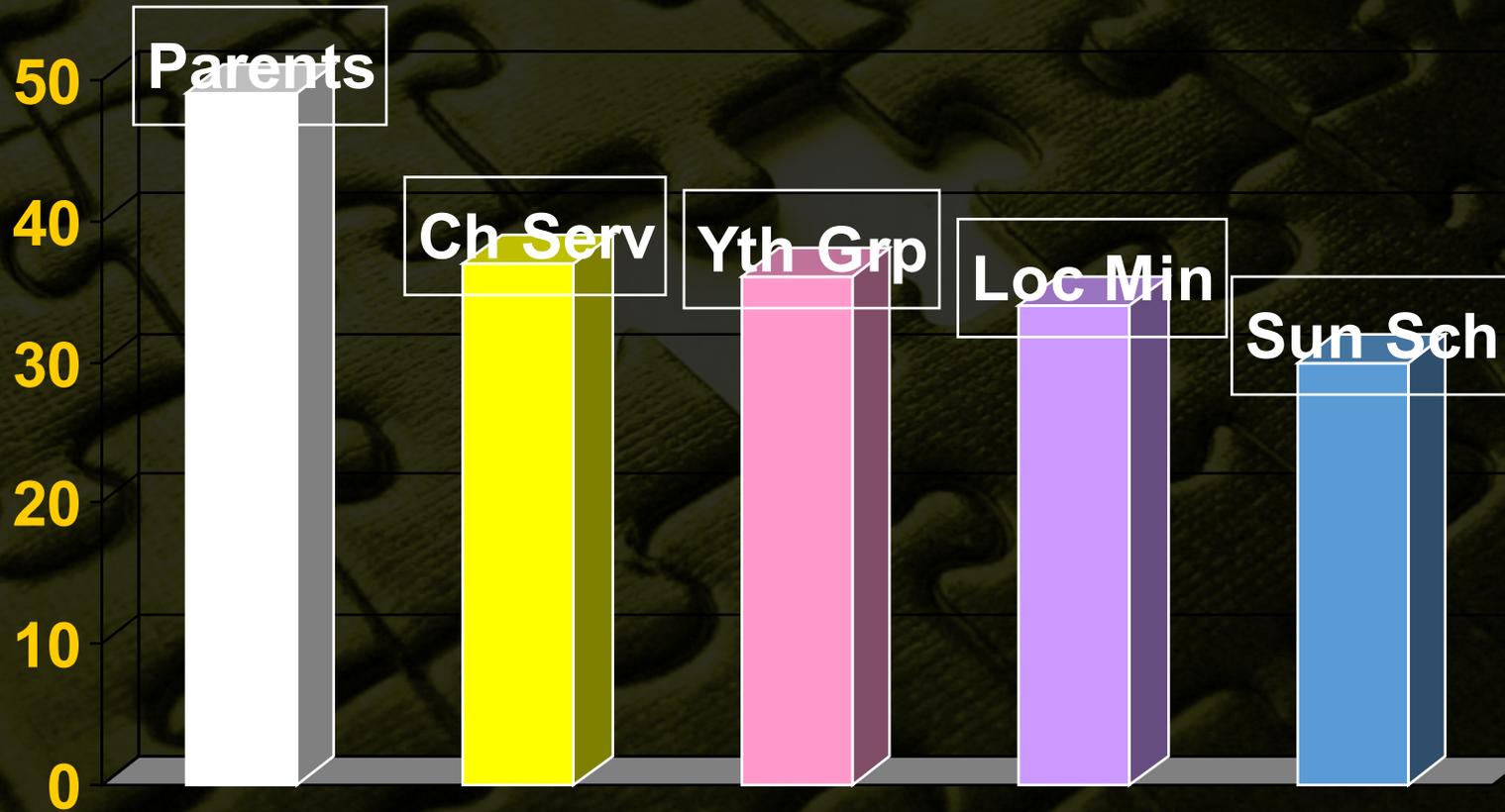
34% between 10-19

NCLS Occasional Paper 5 - Social Influences on Faith Devt.

## Influences on those who became Christian before age 10



## Influences on those who became Christian between 10 - 20



## 6. Priorities and satisfaction across key areas

How much of a priority are these areas and how satisfied are you with these areas of life?



*In most areas Australian's priority (life goal) is not yet matched by satisfaction (current reality). Spiritual is the lowest priority for Australians across these 7 areas, yet has the highest level of satisfaction.*

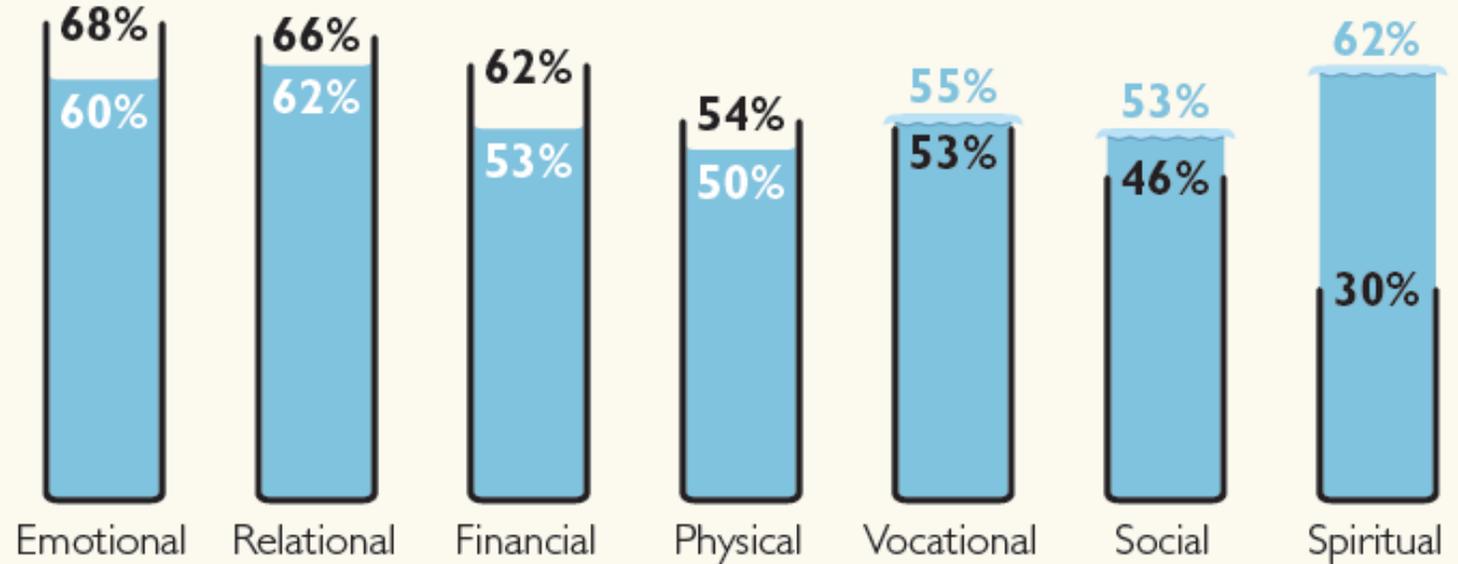


Figure 1.6: What young people value

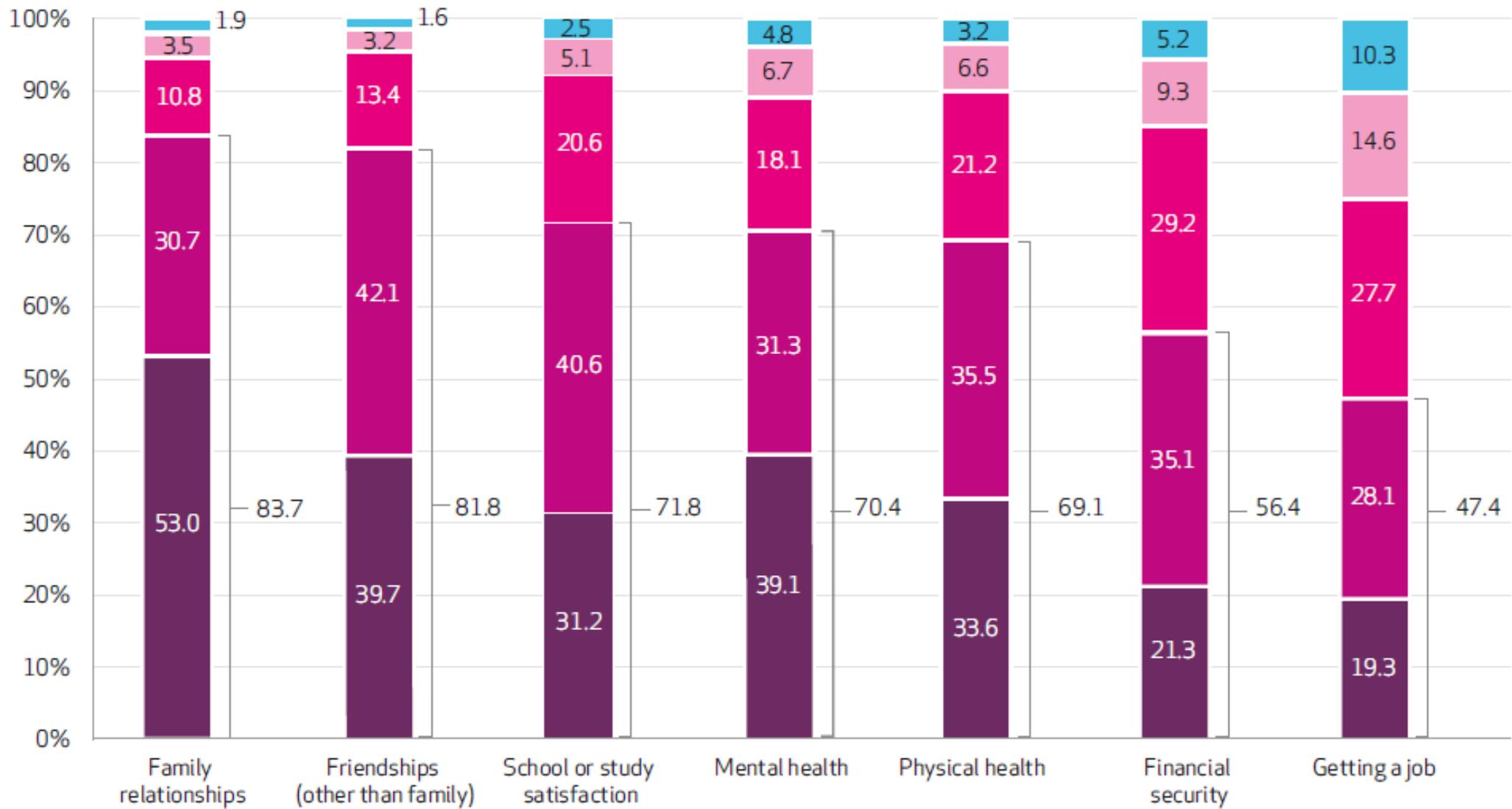


Table 8: What young people value

	QLD 2009 %	National 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %
Family relationships	74.5	75.6	74.3	74.5	74.1
Friendships (other than family)	62.2	60.6	61.5	59.0	67.6
Being independent	32.0	32.7	31.8	33.6	31.1
Physical and mental health	30.0	31.1	28.8	32.9	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	25.3	26.1	26.7	25.7	31.2
School or study satisfaction	22.6	22.0	19.9	19.5	27.7
Getting a job	20.2	18.1	17.6	16.3	18.7
Financial security	14.3	13.8	13.7	14.4	16.2
Spirituality/faith	11.6	12.8	20.0	14.2	13.8
Making a difference in the community	8.4	8.2	7.2	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0	12.0
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The relative importance of various ways of dealing with the challenges of life?

Prayer

Drugs/Alcohol

Social Networking

Music

Shopping

Nature

Church

The relative importance of various ways of dealing with the challenges of life?

Music (8.1)

Nature (6.4)

Shopping (5.9)

Social Networking (5.6)

Prayer (4.2)

Church (3.9)

Drugs/Alcohol (2.5)

# AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

Almost 1 in 4 warm (24%)

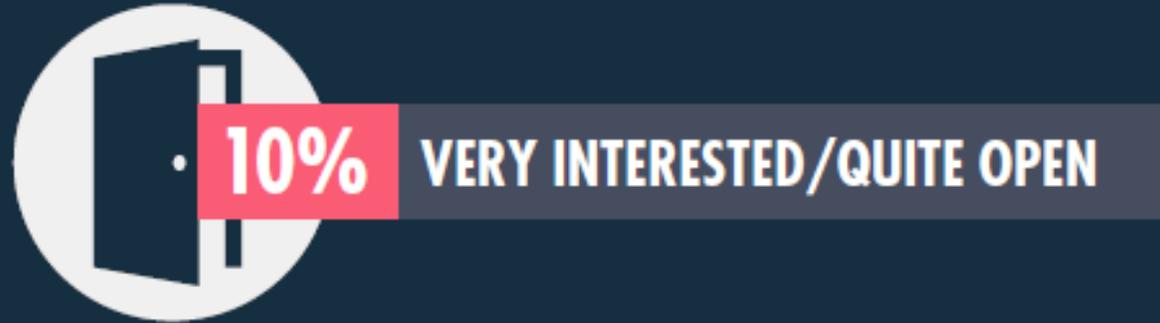
1 in 8 neutral (12%)

1 in 4 cool (26%)

“Religion gives hope but causes friction.”



# NON-CHRISTIANS' OPENNESS TO EXPLORING RELIGION (n=565)





**“ I don't have that religious support system. There must be a lot of comfort in that. I envy that. ”**

### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH GENERALLY?



**18%**

Nothing at all

**60%**

Moderate/  
a little

**22%**

A great deal/  
a lot

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



**56%**

Not well  
at all

**26%**

Moderate/  
slightly well

**18%**

Extremely/  
very well

### PERCEIVED IMPACT OF CHURCHES IN YOUR AREA



**9%**

Negative

**47%**

Neither positive  
or negative

**44%**

Positive

**“ When all else fails the church will be there. ”**

Quotes provided in this infographic are from focus groups conducted with non-Christians.

Faith and Belief in  
Australia– McCrindle  
Research 2017

# Most Australians say the church is beneficial for their community

CHURCH IS BENEFICIAL (88%)



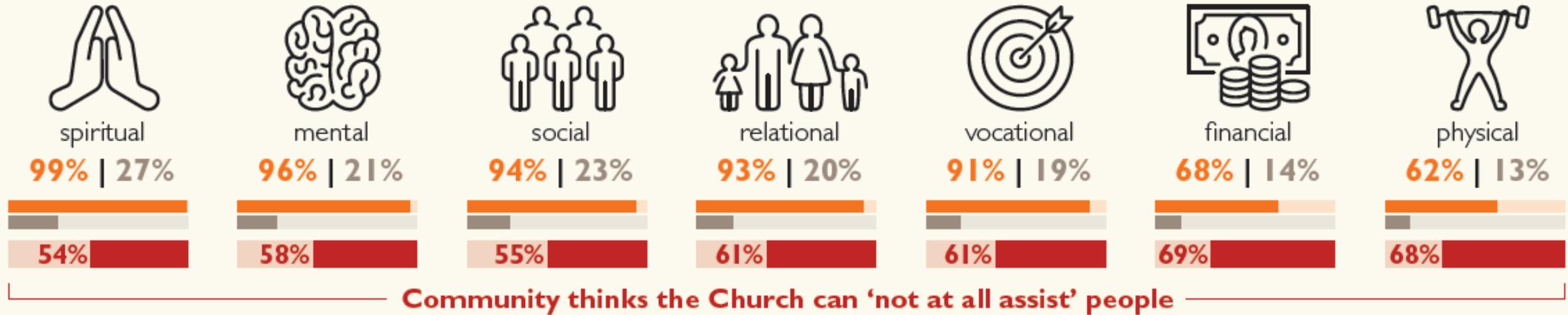
## 5. The Church's role in personal life

While the Church knows it can greatly assist people in these 7 key life areas, Australians are unconvinced.

### Do you believe being an active part of a church community assists in these areas of life?

Church extremely / significantly assists people

Church's view | Community's view



# What if Australia was a 100 people

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBPnay87F8Y&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKloxyibvr  
c7\\_VcJYJ6qly&index=5&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBPnay87F8Y&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKloxyibvr<br/>c7_VcJYJ6qly&index=5&t=0s)



# What

...about the ecology of your town might make it a  
little different to other places?





# What

...ways could you learn about

...your local community?





# ABM Video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebY7Z82scJ8&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKIoxyibvrc7\\_VcJYJ6qly&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebY7Z82scJ8&list=PL0afLRWvN6zmKIoxyibvrc7_VcJYJ6qly&index=5)



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