**Why people don't go to church**

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**Abstract**

The churches in Australia are an important social institution. Every week church services are held across Australia at which people meet to worship God and to be nurtured in the Christian faith. While churches conduct a range of other activities, including welfare activities, school education and health care, the provision of public worship through church services remains a central role of the churches.

The research in this book identifies the likely importance of a variety of social and cultural influences on the choices of Australian adults regarding church attendance. The possible influences examined in this book include:

- church contact as a child
- social relations, particularly spouse and close friends
- competing leisure activities
- religious beliefs, both Christian and non-Christian
- moral and other values
- attitudes towards the churches