

**Australia**  
**ISSP 2008 – Religion III**  
**Study Description**

## ISSP Study Description Form

***Please use this form for reporting on Module 2006 and later!***

*Study title:* ISSP 2008 Religion III

*Fieldwork dates:* Start: 2009-12-2  
End: 2010-02-28

*Principal investigators:* Ann Evans, The Australian National University

*Sample type:* The sample comprised 5,002 named respondents selected at random from the electoral role

*Fieldwork institute:* Academic Surveys Australia

*Fieldwork methods:* Self-completion, paper and pencil, mailed to, mailed back by respondent

*N. of respondents:* 1,718

<i>Details about issued sample:</i>  Please follow the standards laid down in AAPOR/WAPOR, Standard Definitions: <a href="http://www.aapor.org/uploads/standarddefs_4.pdf">http://www.aapor.org/uploads/standarddefs_4.pdf</a> . The numbers in the parentheses are those used in Tables 2 and 3 of Standard Definitions.	1. Total number of starting or issued names/addresses (gross sample size) *	5,002
	2. Interviews (1.0)	1,718
	3. Eligible, Non-Interview	
	A. Refusal/Break-off (2.10)	756
	B. Non-Contact (2.20)	2,505
	C. Other	
	i. Language Problems (2.33)	5
	ii. Miscellaneous Other (2.31, 2.32, 2.35)	17
	3. Unknown Eligibility, Non-Interview (3.0)	
	4. Not Eligible	
	A. Not a Residence (4.50)	
	B. Vacant Residence (4.60)	
	C. No Eligible Respondent (4.70)	
	D. Other (4.10,4.90)	1

\* When new sample units are added during the field period via a new dwelling units list or other standard updating procedure, these additional issued units are added to the starting number of units to make up the total gross sample size. Also, when substitution is used, the total must include the originally drawn cases plus all substitute cases. See AAPOR/WAPOR Standard Definitions, pp. 9-10 for further clarification.

*Language(s):* English

*Weight present:* Yes

*Weighting procedure:* A post-stratification or non-response weight was calculated with the aim of rebalancing the Australian sample so the weighted sample frequencies are equal to the expected frequencies in population in a the three-way tabulation by age group (five groups), sex, and educational attainment (five levels) .

The cross tabulation by age, sex and highest education level from the Australian population was done using the 2006 Census Table Builder. A table was created using sex and age (single years) in the rows, and Australian Citizenship, Highest level of education and highest year of school completed in the columns. The final table was created by excluding those who did not have Australian citizenship (this included those who did not state their citizenship). Individuals with postgraduate degrees and graduate diplomas were combined into one category. Individuals with certificates or diplomas/advanced diplomas were also combined into one

category. Those who were recorded as having their highest non-school qualification as *inadequately described*, *not stated* or *not applicable* were assumed not to have a post-school qualification and were coded according to their highest level of school education. Those who had completed Year 12 were coded as having completed high-school education. Those who completed up to Year 11 or below (included those who did not state their highest level of school education) were coded as having not completed high school.

In the sample not all individuals had complete information on both age, sex and education. However imputations of weight were used to deal so that all individuals were assigned a weight even if they had missing data. If educational attainment was missing but occupational category was available, respondents were given the most common education level for their occupation (irrespective of their age). When age was missing, in some cases, this was imputed from other information available in the questionnaire. If age was missing but there was a partner listed in the household grid the respondent's age was estimated to be equal to the partner's age. If age was missing but they had child in the household, the respondent's age was estimated to be the child's age plus 30 years. Alternatively if there was a parent, the respondent's age was estimated to be 30 years younger than the parent. If there was no information that could be used from the household grid, but there was information on the respondents main activity they were given the average age of people with the same activity (e.g. if the respondent was retired, they were given the average age of retired people). For people who were missing on gender, they had a weight allocated to them that was the average of the weights over gender for their education and age.

To avoid extreme weights, the weights were trimmed at the 1 per cent and 99 per cent level, before being rescaled so that they averaged to one across all cases in each subsample.

*Known systematic  
properties of sample:*

**Gross sample**

Using a sampling frame derived from the AEC Electoral Roll (2009) excludes permanent and temporary residents of Australia (who are not citizens) and any other adults in Australia who are non-citizens except for British subjects on a Commonwealth electoral roll as at 25 January 1984. These exclusions amount to approximately 8 percent of the adult population. Citizens are able to provisionally enrol at the age of 17 but are unable to vote until they turn 18.

**Net sample**

The AuSSA 2009 sample demographics were compared with statistics available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) including the 2006 Census. The major biases are: age (median age is older than the Census population), education (over-representation of persons with post-secondary school qualifications), and gender (over-representation of women).

*Deviations from ISSP  
questionnaire:  
Publications:*

None

None to date