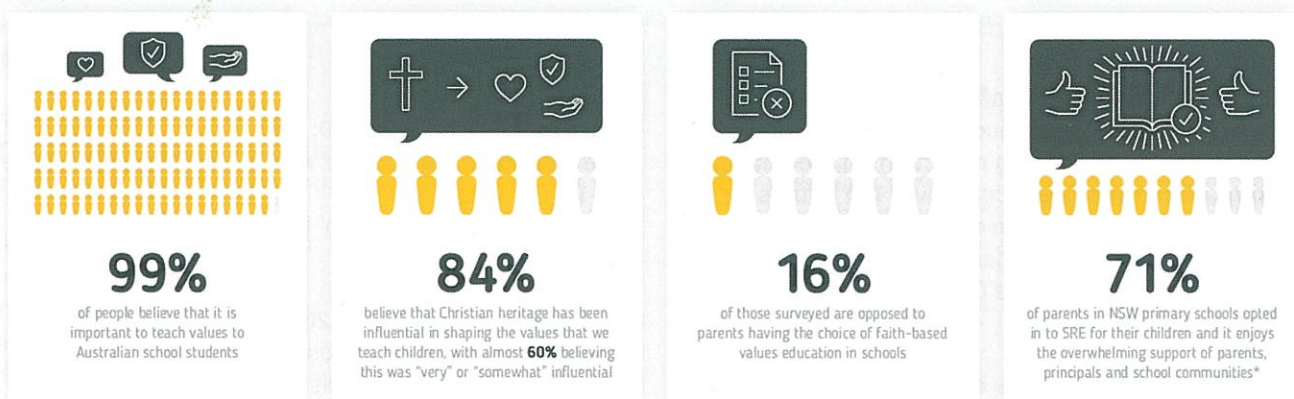


## Survey of Values, Education and Faith in Australia

CHRISTIAN SRE  
QUESTION. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

## METHODOLOGY

A national survey of Australians n=1,013. The nationally representative survey was conducted by McCrindle in April 2018.  
\*The 2015 Review of Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics in NSW Government Schools, by Department of Education & ARTD Consultants, 2016 found that 71% of primary school students attend SRE.

In co-operation with the Inter-Church Commission for Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS) and the All Faiths Special Religious Education (AFSRE) group, best practice support frameworks, networks and resources have been developed to ensure that SRE is celebrated as an essential strength of public schooling.

Spokesperson for Christian SRE in New South Wales, Murray Norman, says the survey figures represent what a majority of Australians are thinking and they "endorse the importance of spirituality and programs like SRE within education".

"The overwhelming majority of parents want the choice of faith-based values to be taught to children, which is exactly what SRE does," Murray said. Importantly, he revealed that when given the choice, most parents choose SRE, with current figures showing 71% of parents of primary school children in NSW opting-in to the program.

"We are aware of a minority voice that seeks to remove any form of spirituality and faith from schools and

remove the choice parents currently have. But, that's out of step with the values and wishes of Australian parents," he said.

Murray explained that SRE supports the Australian Government's values for Australian schooling, and said, "it is clear that Australians recognise the Christian and faith foundation of these values."

Around 430,000 students attend SRE classes across NSW. The NSW Department of Education framework says, "Spiritual wellbeing relates to our sense of meaning and purpose."

In each of our parishes, catechists serve to make Jesus known and loved each and every week in public schools. Take the time to stop and thank them for the vibrant, practical way they are witnesses to the Gospel message and its inherent values for living life well.

**Jude Hennessy is the Director of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation**

**Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**