



Australia



Introduction to AUSTRALIA

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, a large island nation and its own continent, has one of the world's most competitive and fastest-growing economies. Ecologically rich and known for its Great Barrier Reef and unique wildlife, Australia is culturally similar to the West despite its location in the Southern hemisphere. Much of the populace is of British descent, though there is an active, native aboriginal population.

The AUSTRALIAN people

Total population:	21,262,641
Children under 15:	3,950,803
Average Life Expectancy:	81.63 years
Per capita annual income:	\$38,200
% children in primary school:	96.96%
Average years of education:	20 years
Literacy rate:	99%
Internet users:	15.17 million
Cell phones in use:	22.12 million
Major/official language(s):	English
Risk issues impacting children:	

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics for this country.

More about AUSTRALIA

Capital city:	Canberra
Type of government:	A Federal Parliamentary Democracy and a Commonwealth realm
Square kilometers:	7,741,220
General terrain:	Mostly low plateau with deserts; fertile plain in southeast
Major industries/jobs:	Mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals, steel, sheep
National motto:	N/A*
Major airport(s):	Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Reaching AUSTRALIA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian	- 63.8%
Buddhist	- 2.1%
Muslim	- 1.7%
Other	- 2.4%
Unspecified/none	- 30%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic	- 36.4%
Anglican	- 30.4%
Protestant	- 19%
Other	- 7.4%
Orthodox	- 4.6%
Independent	- 2.2%

Unreached People Groups:	10 (2% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.0133
Average annual baptisms:	239,165
Foreign missionaries:	4,600
Per million:	226.54
National Christian workers/pastors:	55,000
Per million:	2,708.57
Number of churches/congregations:	16,800

Children's ministry in AUSTRALIA

Overview: • Children's ministry in Australia tends to be well-resourced and has the time and place to meet. There are many thriving Christian ministries working in the area.

- Though Christianity is the primary religion in Australia, many adherents are merely nominal. Many families do not attend church regularly or invest much in their children's spirituality.
- Though the church's presence is felt and ministry is available, many Australians have little or no interest in religion.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
16,800 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
3,950,803 children for Christ