

# Religions in the South Pacific

Tonga

Fiji

Samoa

Vanuatu

Solomon Islands

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# OUTCOMES

- Aware of the general religious make up of countries in the South Pacific
- Identify key characteristics of religions and denominations
- Ability to ascertain further information about religions and influence over daily life

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# OVERVIEW

- Three stages
  - Orientation
  - Operability
  - Awareness

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# ORIENTATION

- **Socio-Theology**
- **Historical overview**
  - Two clear periods,
    - Pre-contact
    - Post contact (our focus)
  - Christianity spread through missionary endeavours
  - Transformation of indigenous religion
  - Two significant Christian missionary organisations
    - London Missionary Society (LMS)
    - Church Missionary Society (CMS)

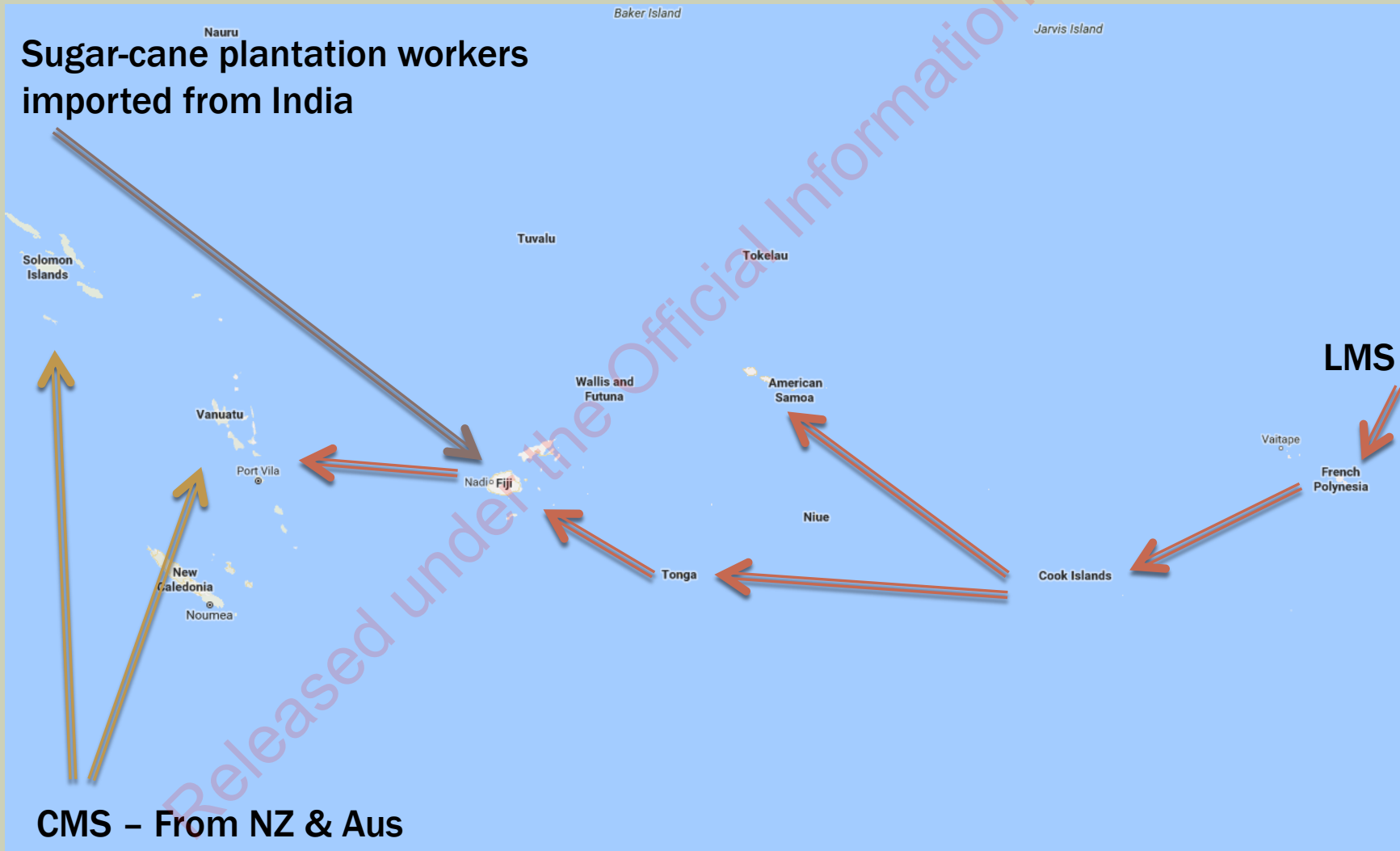
# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- Missionaries and colonialism
- LMS Modus Operandi
- CMS Modus Operandi

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# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Sugar-cane plantation workers imported from India



CMS - From NZ & Aus

# CURRENT RELIGIOUS DYNAMICS

- Islam
- Other religions
  - Hinduism, Sikh, Baha'I, Judaism
  - Present due to immigration, very limited conversion
- Atheism
- Separation of church and state

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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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**BREAK**

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# OPERABILITY

- Key is to ascertain what is the dominant belief system & what are the implications
- 4 Key questions
  - What is sacred?
  - Who is important?
  - What are the traditions?
  - What is good?
- Profession, Practice & Worldview

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# RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE - SPECTRUM

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# RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE - SPECTRUM

	Theocracy	One Religion	State sponsored	Limited exercise	Free exercise
Political leadership	Religious authority figure	Lay authority figure	Lay authority figure	Lay authority figure	Lay authority figure
Other religions/ belief systems	Illegal	Illegal	Possibly legal	Legal	Legal
Law	Based on theology/ sacred texts	Based on theology/ sacred texts	Loosely based on theology/ sacred texts	Potential for historical influence, but no active reference	Potential for historical influence, but no active reference
Social conformity	Absolute	Absolute	Significant	Significant - Moderate	Low - nil

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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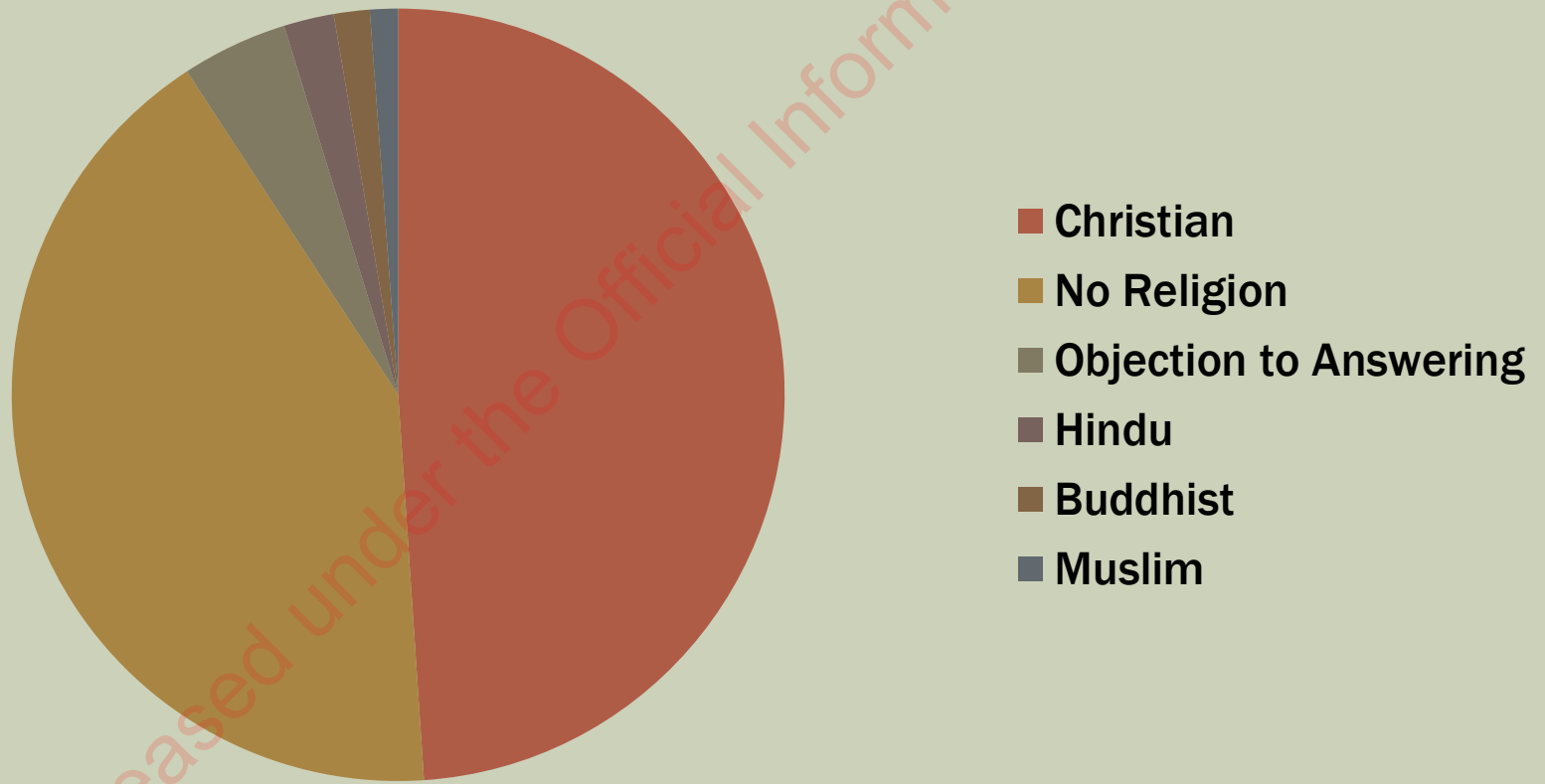
# AWARENESS

## ■ Spectrum of Religion

- Where would you put Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, & the Solomon Islands?

	Theocracy	One Religion	State sponsored	Limited exercise	Free exercise
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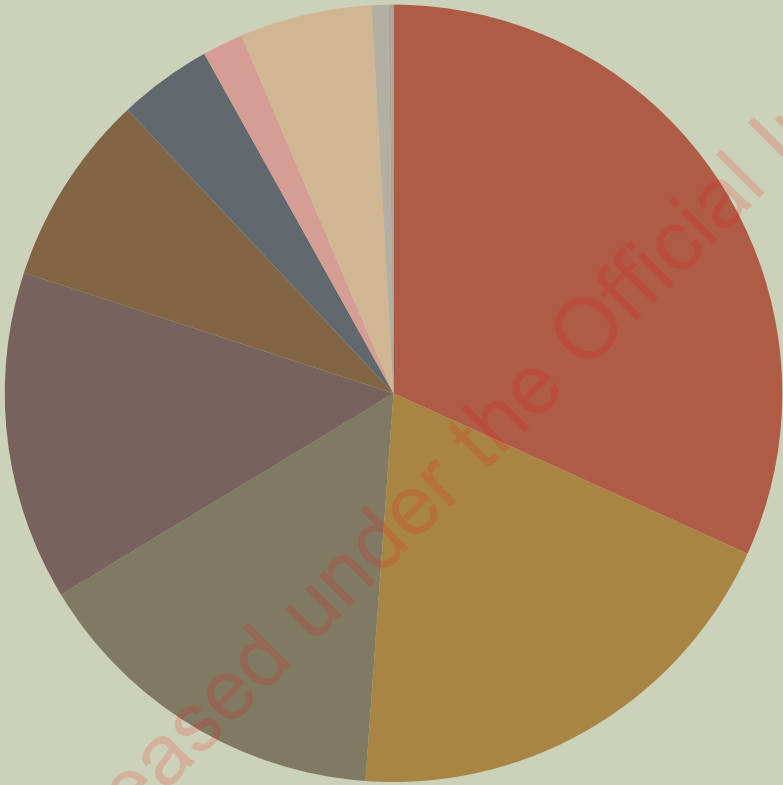
## Religion - NZ (2013 Census)



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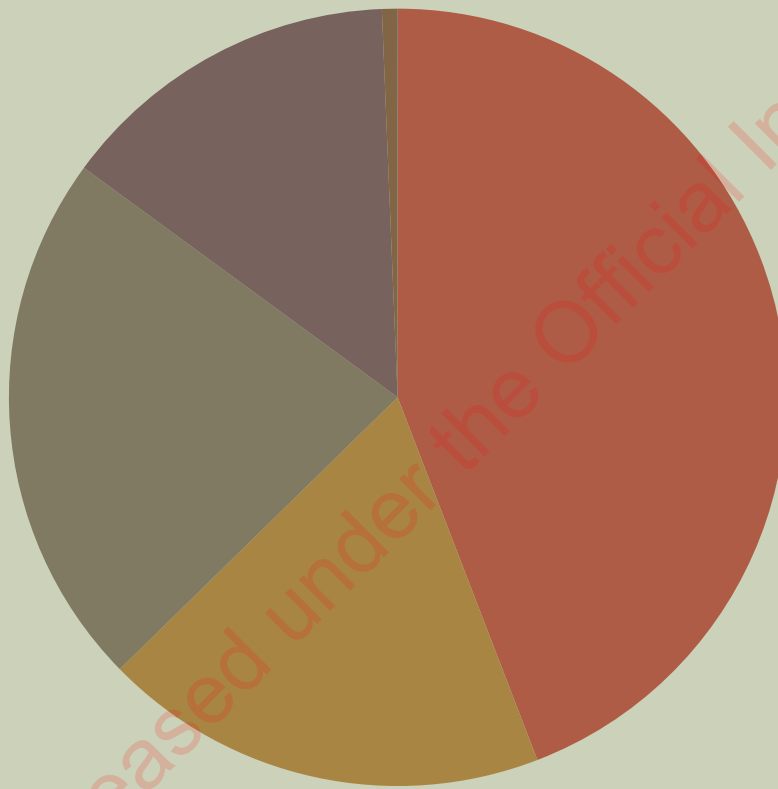
# Religion Samoa (CIA Fact Book)



- Congregationalist
- Roman Catholic
- Mormon
- Methodist
- Assembly of God
- Seventh-Day Adventist
- Worship Centre
- Other Christian
- Other (Baha'i, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish)
- None
- Unspecified

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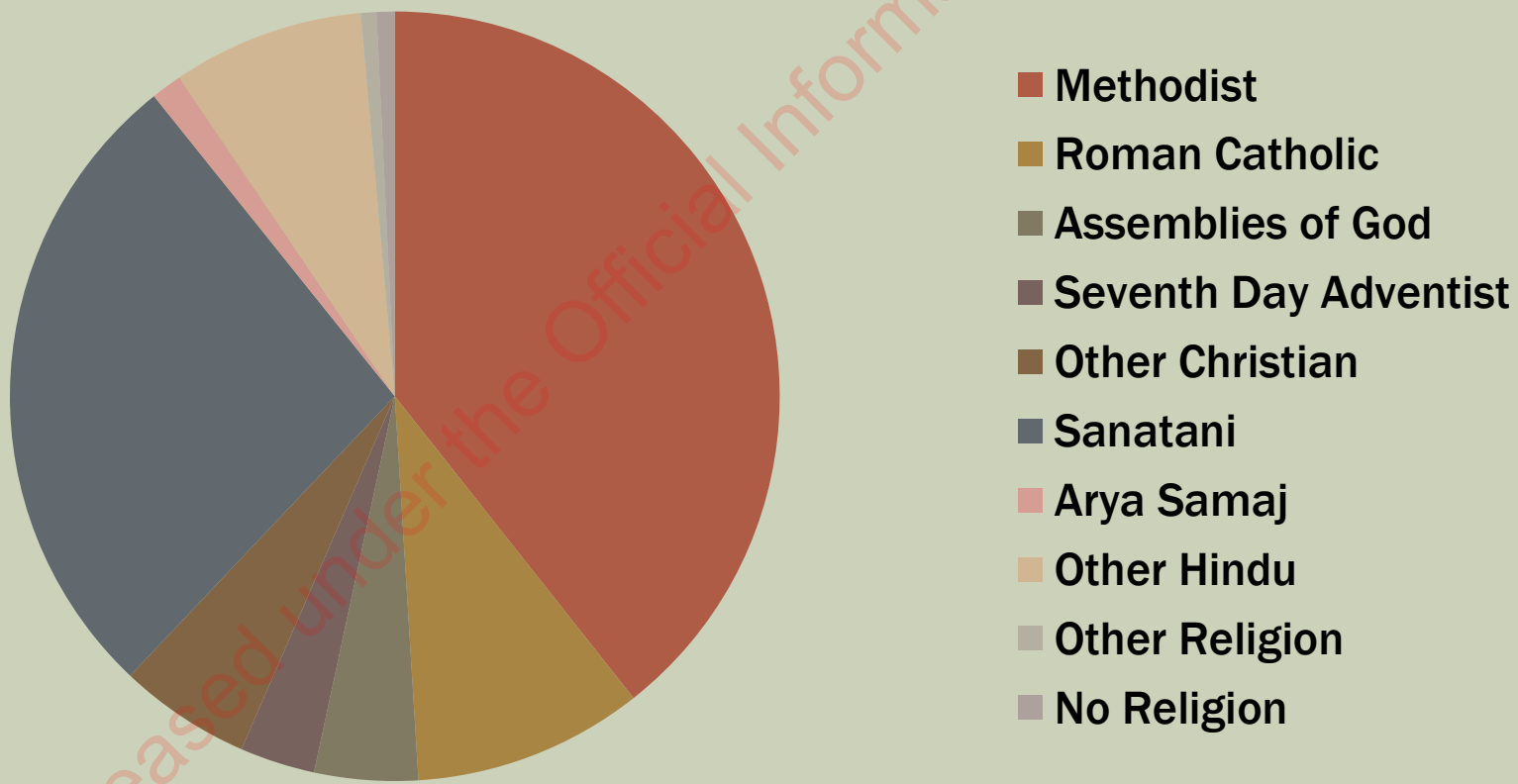
## Religion – Tonga (2011 Tonga department of Statistics)



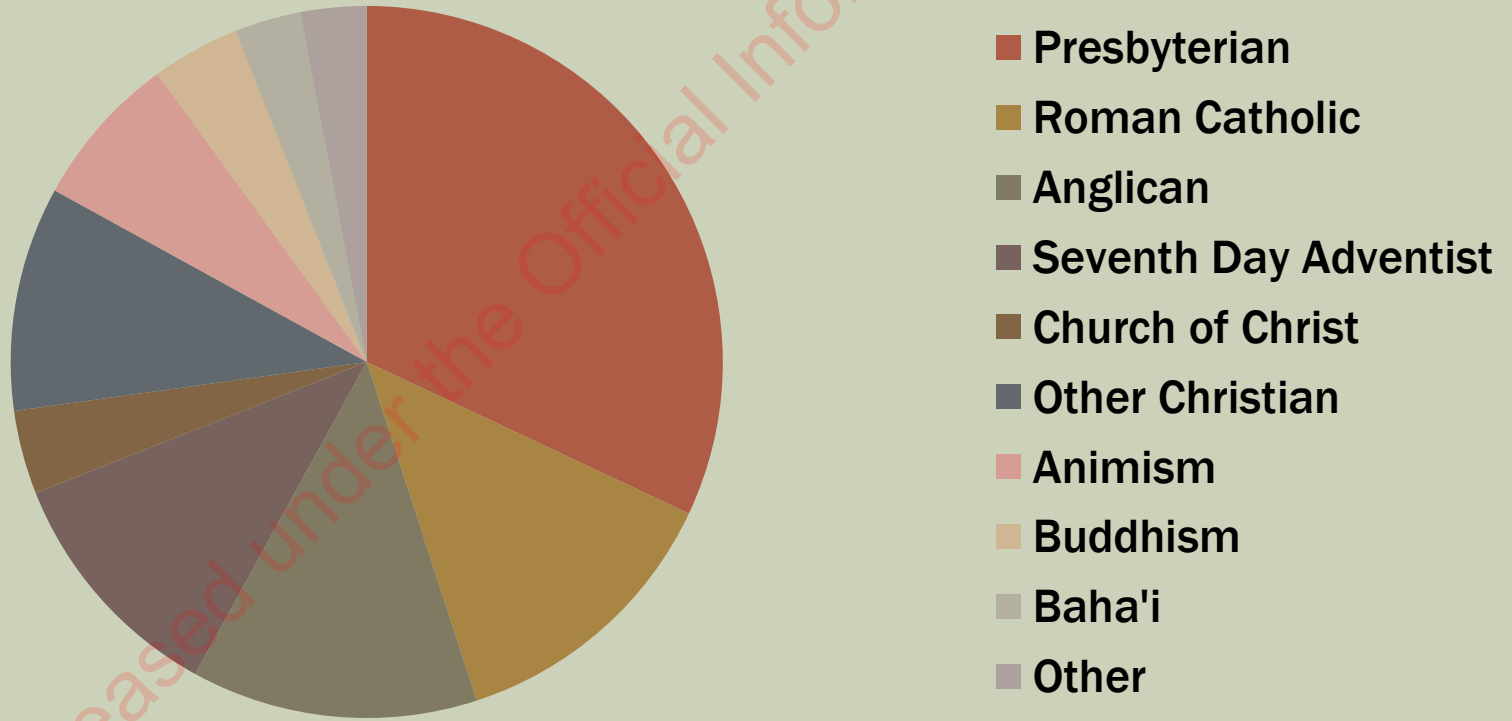
- Free Wesleyan (Methodist)
- Roman Catholic
- Mormon
- Free church of Tonga
- Other Christian
- Other religion

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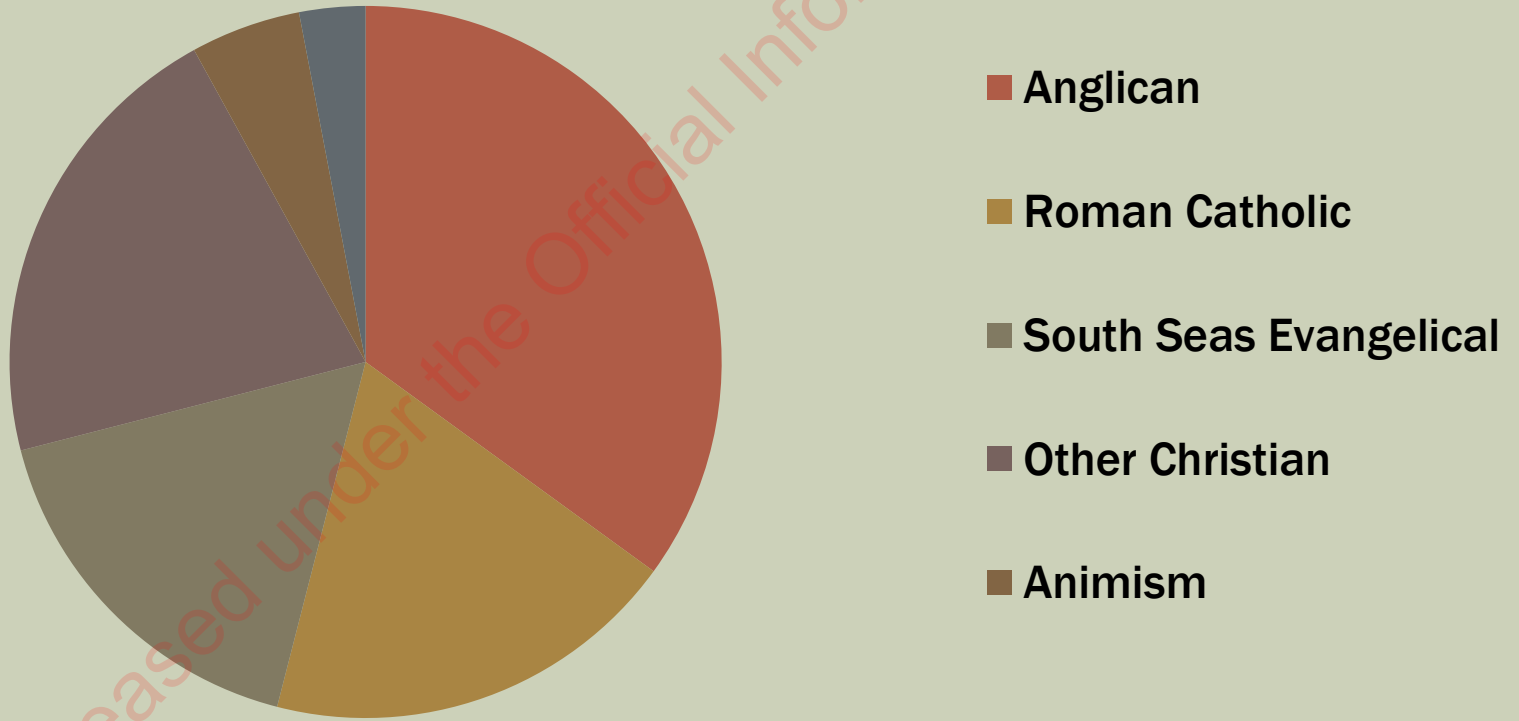
## Religion – Fiji (2011 Fiji Department of Statistics)



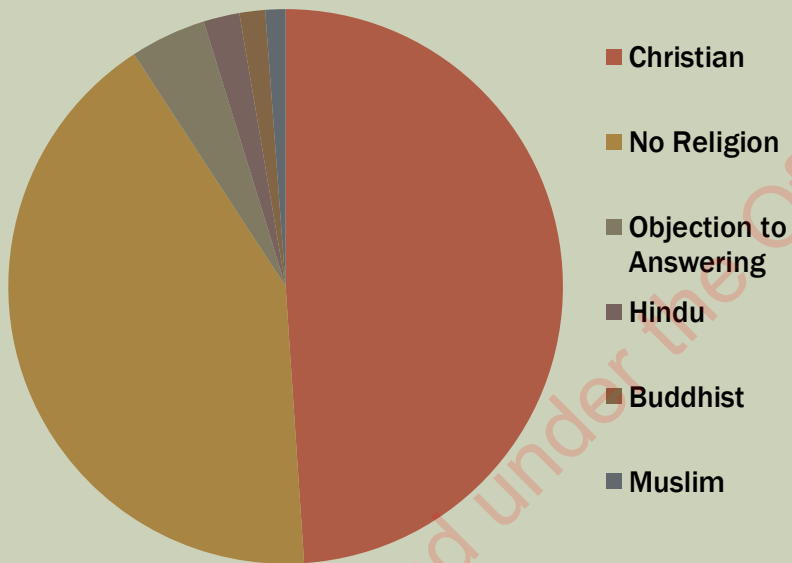
## Religion – Vanuatu (2007 International Religious Freedom Report)



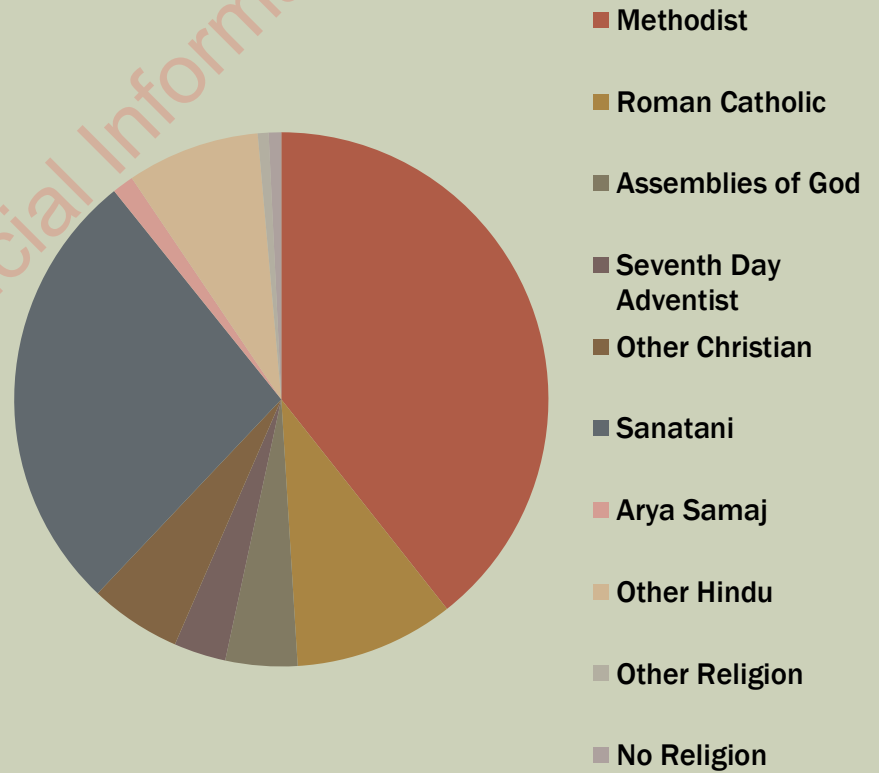
## Religion - Solomon Islands (2007 International Religious Freedom Report)



## Religion - NZ



## Religion - Fiji



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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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# 4 KEY QUESTIONS – EXERCISE

- What is sacred
- Who is important
- What are the traditions
- What is good

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# MAIN RELIGIONS

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Animism
- Buddhism
- Baha'i

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# DENOMINATIONAL DIFFERENCES

- Christianity
  - Methodism
  - Roman Catholicism
  - Anglicanism
  - Mormonism
  - Presbyterianism
  - Pentecostalism

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# DENOMINATIONAL DIFFERENCES

- Hindu
  - Sanatani
  - Arya Samaj
- Islam
  - Sunni
  - Shia

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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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