

Poll shows strong Christian support

Lauren Wilson | August 16, 2007

A POLL conducted by The Australian's website has revealed most Australians believe Christian values should influence the country's political agenda.

The poll suggests that across the country, Christian values are far from being out of favour with the Australian public, with 63.3% of people polled nationally responding in favour of Christian values influencing the country's political agenda.

This finding was most pronounced in Victoria, where 62.6% of respondents said they believed Christian values should influence the political agenda to a large extent.

The poll also found that respondents from Queensland and the Northern Territory were similarly in favour of religion influencing politics.

54.6% of Queenslanders and 50% of respondents from the Northern Territory, said they too believed Christian values should influence Australian politics to a large extent.

Yet the Victorian bible-belt finding did not extend to the nation's capital, with 49.8% of respondents from the ACT saying they did not believe Christian values should have any bearing on Australian politics.

The appropriateness of religion in Australian politics is once again being questioned, as both Prime Minister Howard and opposition leader Kevin Rudd are avowed Christians.

But Mr Rudd's religious credentials may not help him win extra votes in his Queensland seat of Griffith. As many as 48.7% of Griffith responders said they believed Christian values should have no influence on the nation's political agenda.

Respondents from Bennelong were more Christian-friendly, with 45.9% believing that Christian values should largely influence politics.

The exclusive poll conducted by The Australian also examined the responses by gender, finding Australian women over all states were considerably more supportive of religion playing some role in politics.

61.9% of Australian women, compared to only 45% of Australian men, said that they were in favour of Christian values influencing Australian politics to a large extent.