



Alpha 2020 Australia Impact Report



Contents

Page 1





Melinda Diwght

National Director,
Alpha Australia

Welcome to our 2020 Impact Report. In the past year, Australia has been through so much as a nation but one thing remains the same, we all have people in our lives that have not yet come to know the transformational, life sustaining, powerful love of God.

Thank you for providing the support to enable us to serve the church and community with The Good News and provide support in safe community. The extension to Alpha Online has helped extend the way we are able to serve and connect.

Australians who have explored the questions of life and faith through Alpha has passed the half million mark and now we're on mission to reach 1 million. We are entering the greatest season of evangelisation globally and now we can come alongside those exploring faith through online and traditional pathways. The reach across our nation has expanded and the search for meaning has increased.

Thank you for carrying hope, believing for miracles and for your generous support and partnership. Together we are investing for eternal purpose,

Your partner in the gospel,

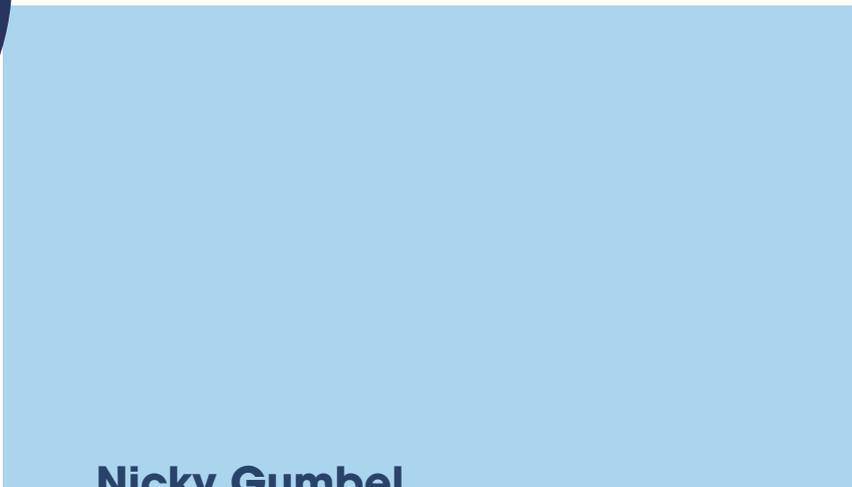
Melinda

What an interesting year it has been and an incredible time where we have all discovered that, "we are not in charge". In the midst of uncertainty, anxiety and change more questions have been raised than ever before. What a privilege and challenge it has been to provide new pathways for the church and our wider community to explore faith.

PLAY NOW



Murray Averill
Acting National Director,
Alpha Australia



Nicky Gumbel
Alpha Pioneer

Strategy

Evangelisation of the nations, the revitalization of the church and the transformation of society

During 2019 the number of Australians who have explored the questions of life and faith through Alpha passed the half million mark. It was a great time to celebrate and to turn our focus toward reaching one million Australians through Alpha.

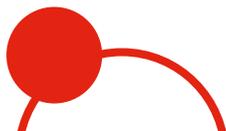
We exist to serve the church. So our principal strategy to reach the next half million Australians remains essentially the same: encourage and support churches to run Alpha as a means of achieving the Great Commission.

IMPACT REPORT

Inherent in this strategy is the free provision of the high quality and constantly updated Alpha Film Series and Youth Film Series. Within this broader strategy, two encouraging trends have continued to emerge. The first is the flourishing of Alpha in the Catholic Context as

more and more Catholic Parishes commence Alpha. The second is the take up of the Alpha Youth Series, not only among teens but increasingly among young adults. Part of Alpha's strategic action has been to support these positive trends.

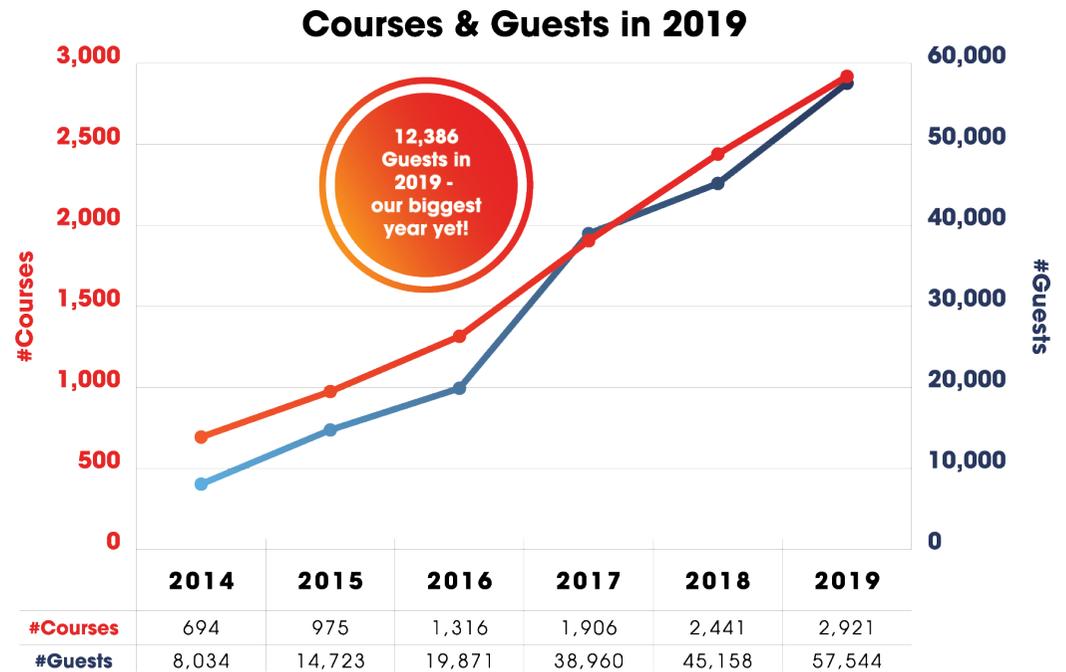
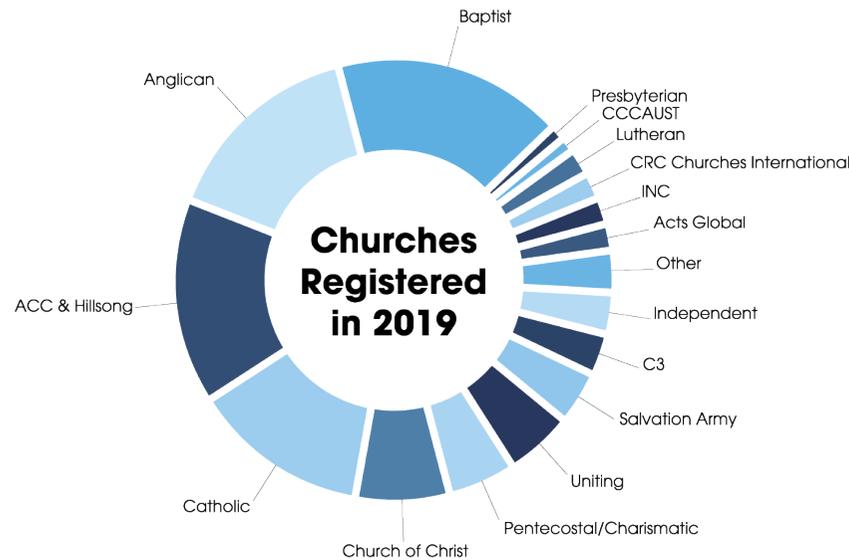
Then during the 2019/20 reporting period, another strategy didn't so much emerge as burst into existence - Alpha Online. As COVID-19 began to radically change the way we all lived, we saw a strategic and divine opportunity to help Australians explore the great existential questions of life through Alpha Online. A new Alpha Online website was created with associated materials. Churches were contacted. Teams were trained. And Alpha Online was born.



Our Mission

To serve and equip the church in its mission to see people discover and develop a relationship with Jesus

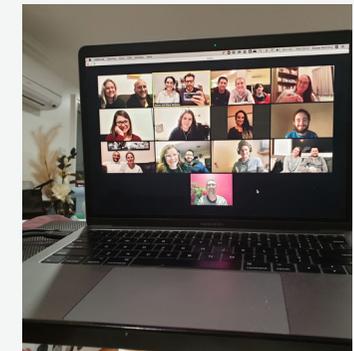
Growth



From **churches** to **homes**, to **tables** to **couches**...

The methods change, but the message remains the same

The Alpha Online Timeline



Covid Hits

At the outset of the year 2020, COVID-19 was having an impact on the world and by March, Australia was experiencing the full force of the changes and uncertainty it brought about. Companies, organisations and institutions all faced the challenge of adapting to the new circumstances, particularly the necessity for social distancing and isolating.

Move to Alpha Online

Alpha is traditionally run in cafes, churches, universities - you name it. So as you can imagine, like the rest of the nation, Alpha had to innovate in order to continue serving the Church in its mission, to find a way to still offer Alpha but in an online context, enter: Alpha Online.

New Website Launched

In order to resource Churches with the most relevant and helpful resources for those transitioning to Alpha Online, Alpha Australia launched a new website. It included "the Complete Guide to Alpha Online" PDF downloaded by Churches and Alpha Leaders across Australia alongside videos, invitational resources and tips and tricks from first adopters.

Training

The Alpha Australia team hold a number of online trainings covering topics from Zoom 101, Running Alpha Online, Alpha in a Catholic Context, Small Group training, Breakout room training and how to facilitate the Alpha Retreat in an online context.

Churches run Alpha Online

With Alpha Online in full swing, Churches are using invitational resources to invite guests to try Alpha via their social media channels, websites and emails. Many incredible testimonies begin to emerge of guests encountering the love of God through Alpha Online who could not have attended an Alpha previously.



Yazdan & Narges

Alpha Guests

When they first arrived in Australia, their experience of religion was joyless. To them, it felt like a deal where they had to strive to be accepted.

Yazdan and Narges attended Alpha in both English and Farsi. They had lots of questions about Christianity, about Jesus and the trinity, and why God had to humble himself by coming into the world as a baby. Alpha helped them find the answers and on the journey, both Yazdan and Narges found Jesus as their Lord.

"For us, Alpha was like water for thirsty people in the wilderness. We learnt more about God and his grace everyday. We keep our eyes on him and ask him to let us know what our next step is. Life in a new country and be tough and complicated, but we're happy that our faith and trust in God makes life easier and more joyful."

Cathy

Alpha Leader



At St Declan's Parish we have been using Alpha as a tool for evangelisation and to build a culture of discipleship and invitation for the past three years. In that time we have run nine Alpha courses with over 400 guests. We started our last Alpha in late February with 90 guests. We had just made it through to Week 4 when we made the call to cancel until further notice for safety reasons. It was a gut-wrenching decision. I was slow to pay much attention to Alpha Online but I realised we needed to trust in the Holy Spirit's ability to act in any kind of forum. Within a couple of weeks, just after Easter, we reconvened online.

The learning curve was extraordinary and just a little scary but we were amazed at how powerfully the Holy Spirit worked in our prayer ministry breakout rooms. Guests experienced physical sensations and received rich words of knowledge that spoke into their lives but most importantly, many encountered the love of Jesus in a deep way and described feeling lighter, more peaceful and joyful. And this all happened in their own lounge/office/bedroom! This has made us realise that there is no going back on Alpha Online. In fact, we are already beginning to plan our next Alpha Online!



Ps Guy Mason

Church Leader

In April 2020, City on a Hill launched Alpha Online in multiple locations across Australia.

"I'd like to share the significance of running Alpha Online at this moment in time. City on a Hill is a church committed to knowing Jesus and making Jesus known. Which is why we together are so excited to be launching Alpha Online. I believe this is a moment in time where our world needs the Gospel, a moment in time where people are asking questions. So I commend Alpha Online to you and I pray and trust it will be unifying for your Church."
- Ps. Guy Mason

City on a Hill has seen an average attendance of 220 people per week to Alpha Online which has served the church in its mission to know Jesus and make Jesus known.



Paul & Jo

Alpha Guests

While working as a Policeman in North Brisbane, Paul accepted an invitation to attend Alpha.

At Alpha, Paul was overwhelmed by the genuine love and support from his group who patiently answered his many questions and consistently prayer for him and his family. Through Alpha, Paul found a personal connection with Jesus and growing relationships within a church community.

Such was the impact of Alpha on Paul's life that both his wife and sister attended the next Alpha course through which they too became followers of Jesus. Seven years on, Paul and Jo continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and, together with their son and extended family, to be part of their community of faith.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH MORE Alpha Stories](#)

Alpha Youth Series

In 2019 we saw

1,094

Alpha Youths run for

21,661

young people!



IMPACT REPORT

WATCH: What do Aussie Church Leaders think of the Alpha Youth Series?

PLAY NOW



- MELINDA DWIGHT**
ALPHA AUSTRALIA
- JASON MOUNTJOY**
NEWLIFE CHURCH
- PETER TOGANIVALU**
HILLSONG YOUNG & FREE
- BRENTON KILLEEN**
MUSTRAD SCHOOLS
- SHELLEY LIGERTMOET**
CITYLIFE
- SAM LONG**
SCHOOL REVOLUTION
- MIKE STEVENS**
CLOVERCREST BAPTIST
- MITCH EVERINGHAM**
ST FAITHS ANGLICAN
- CAM & RENEE BENNETT**
YOUTH ALIVE AUSTRALIA



“Alpha Youth helped me understand how different people think. I felt like I could ask my questions and not be judged. If you have any opinions, or doubts, Alpha is a really good place for everyone.”

Sofia - Grade 10

LAUNCHING JULY 2020:

The Marriage Course.

Launching July 1 2020

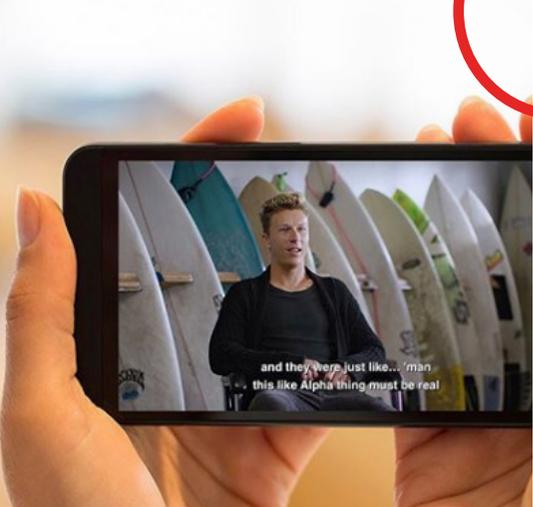
The new Marriage & Pre-Marriage Course series are a completely reimagined series with new teaching content, creative short films, global stories, sofa couples and renowned experts. Filmed in a contemporary documentary style, the new episodes will be more engaging and relevant to a diverse audience. We believe this new series will help transform relationships around Australia and help churches engage with the modern challenges of marriage.

Hosted by Nicky & Sila Lee, The Marriage & Pre-Marriage is now free, thanks to a generous donor!

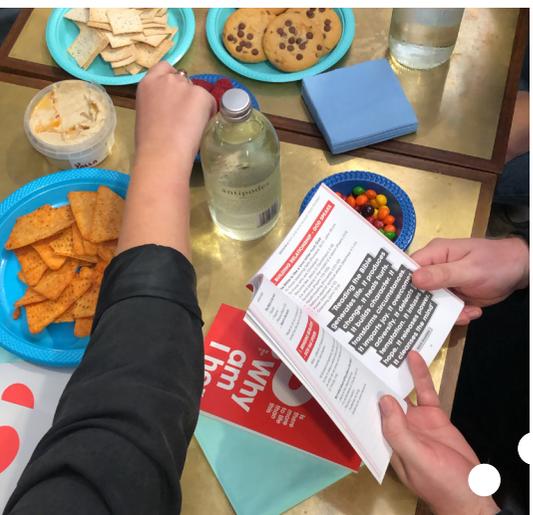
The Marriage Course



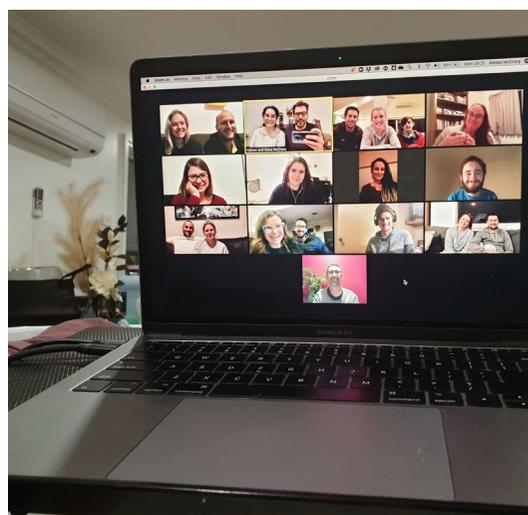
themarriagecourse.alpha.org



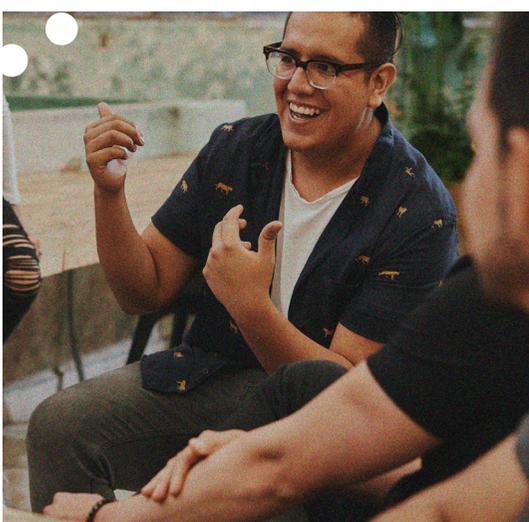
We can see that
God
is on the
move



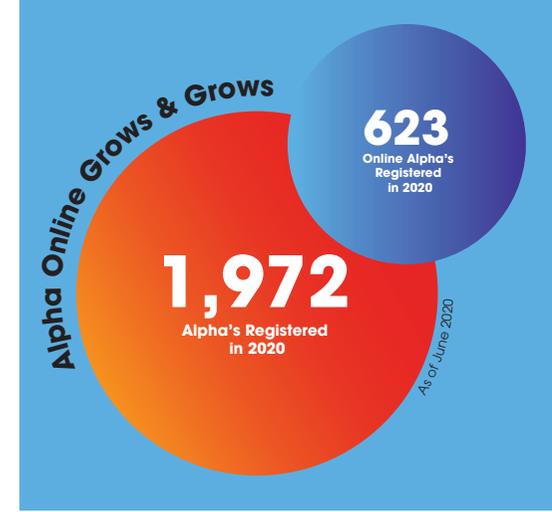
“Alpha allowed me to journey at my own pace. I could ask what I wanted, and didn’t feel like there was right or wrong, just honest discussion. After encountering Jesus on Alpha I am so much more comfortable with who I am. I know now that I am not the sum of my past mistakes.”
Ryan, Alpha Guest



Alpha **N**
MISSION TO REACH 1 MILLION AUSTRALIANS



“A whole bunch of people at our Alpha Online gatherings made the first-time decision to trust Jesus with their lives, and many more were filled with the Holy Spirit in a transformative way. There is much about this season that is hard, difficult and challenging. AND, in and through it all, God is moving - drawing women and men into life. As God always does”
Pastor Stu Cameron



57,544
Guests tried
Alpha in 2019 -
our biggest
year yet!



I had built friendships there that felt like family, was even being invited to their family gatherings and this was doing so much for my emotional wellbeing. I'm therefore so grateful for Alpha for its ability to create belonging for everyone involved, regardless of where they're at in their spiritual journey.

Nancy, Alpha Guest

Get in touch!

To find an Alpha near you:

alpha.org.au/try

To register an Alpha:

alpha.org.au/run

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For Alpha in a Catholic Context, email:

catholics@alpha.org.au

For Youth Alpha, email:

youth@alpha.org.au

For your local Regional Office, email:

nsw@alpha.org.au (for NSW & ACT)

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