



25
YEARS

Dear local churches,

In October and November 2016, thousands of churches like yours will participate in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) across Australia.

The NCLS hears the views of church attenders and provides a picture of church health and vitality.

Will you consider being part of the 2016 NCLS?

Your involvement matters.

We aim to invest in the future vitality of your local church. Results will identify your strengths and provide processes to help you evaluate and act.

All churches will benefit from credible mission research findings.

Church leaders will gain valuable feedback on effectiveness and sustainability in ministry.

We hope you will partner with us all in this venture.

R. Powell

Dr Ruth Powell
Director, NCLS Research



2016 National Church Life Survey

**The 2016 National Church Life Survey
is on and your church is invited!**

www.2016ncls.org.au



What is the NCLS?

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) maps the presence of churches nationwide and shares the stories of the positive contributions churches make to their local communities.

The survey identifies core qualities of vitality so churches can build on strengths, to more effectively steward the gifts and skills of their people.

Leaders gain valuable feedback to help them develop effective leadership and make informed decisions for the future.



The 2016 NCLS is expected to include:

- 400,000 attenders
- 3,000+ churches
- 7,000+ leaders
- surveys in 8 languages



To take part, churches will need to set aside 20 minutes for all church attenders to complete the survey.



What is the purpose?

To encourage church vitality: life to the full

The overriding purpose of the project is to help churches to be more vital and healthy.

The guiding vision of the National Church Life Survey is Jesus' statement "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Largest longitudinal church survey in the world

The NCLS has been held every 5 years since 1991 and is the largest, longest running survey of church life in the world.



A collaborative partnership with Christian denominations

The NCLS is a mission research project, involving more than 20 denominations and movements across Australia, that all churches can learn from.

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Acts 2 Alliance (A2A) | Church of the Nazarene |
| Anglican Church | Churches of Christ |
| Apostolic Church | Congregational Churches |
| Australian Christian Churches (ACC) | Foursquare Gospel Church |
| Baptist Churches | International Network of Churches (INC) |
| Catholic Church | Lutheran Church |
| Christian & Missionary Alliance | Presbyterian Church |
| C3 Church | Seventh-day Adventist Church |
| Christian Reformed Churches | The Salvation Army |
| CRC Churches International | Uniting Church in Australia |
| | Vineyard Churches |
| | Independent Churches |

We need many diverse voices

Your participation is the only way we can provide high quality research and resources for the whole Australian Church.

We ask you to consider taking part to represent the denominational, cultural and geographic diversity of our churches.

A catalyst for creative mission and ministry



Why take part?



3 reasons why churches take part

1. To shape the future of their local church

The National Church Life Survey gives every church attender a voice. The NCLS captures attenders' discernment about vision and direction, their gifts and personal commitment to growth. Identifying the current strengths in a church can be an effective first step toward future vitality.

2. To help their denomination better understand the gifts and challenges of local churches

The NCLS is an opportunity for local churches to inform their denomination about a range of issues and to help the denomination discern its current place in the wider body of Christ.

3. To be part of the national snapshot of the whole Australian Church

Each NCLS creates an historical snapshot of Australian churches. The national sample produces credible research findings and valuable insights into church life in the Australian context that all can learn from.

Local churches share the reasons why they participate:

'The mission of the local church is too important to leave to hunches and guesses about effectiveness.'

Coastal church

'In a changing society, we need to see where we have been, where we are headed and what we must do'

Multicultural urban church

'We are so encouraged and strengthened.. armed with information so we can now make decisions'

Regional church

'We realised our church focussed on everything except what it should be'

Historic inner city church

'Stewardship of our parishioners' time and talent became our focus'

Suburban parish with school

Read the full stories online

How to have a successful survey

Prepare

Communicate positively to church

Your opinion matters

We want your input as we plan

Administer well

Be organised and inclusive

We will hear everyone's voice

Evaluate

Meet with leaders when you have the results

What are we seeing?

How does this fit with our calling?

Communicate

Share insights and plans with the church

Celebrate these strengths!

Let's pray for these challenges and plans

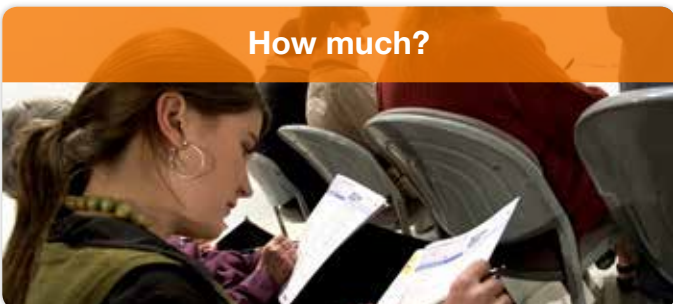
Act

Identify and do the actions that reach goals

Let's pursue our calling by...

Participate with us in being the church

How much?



The cost of taking part in the 2016 National Church Life Survey is \$250 plus \$1.50 per survey ordered (ex GST). This provides a single Church Life Profile of survey results in a Church Life Pack.

Options for single site and multi-site churches (e.g. parishes) are available. A range of discounts and subsidies may apply. Go online for details.

To take part in the 2016 National Church Life Survey, sign up online at www.2016ncls.org.au/sign-up or contact NCLS Research

Are you interested in a positive, inclusive process that helps leaders lead?

The NCLS offers your church a process that:

- gives each person a voice
- organises results in categories related to church health
- compares your church with national benchmarks
- tracks your own church's history.

What do churches receive?



Churches that participate in the 2016 National Church Life Survey receive their own unique survey results in a Church Life Pack.

- Your unique **Church Life Profile** shows your survey results with a clear evaluation of your church's vitality. Online access to the Profile is included.
- **Enriching Church Life Book** and other publications explain the core qualities of church life and share national research findings.
- **Practical planning resources** with step by step processes to help you get the most out of your results in your mission planning, with workshop outlines and multimedia resources online.



Denominations also receive overview reports, equipping them for strategic and pastoral leadership of their churches.

The 2016 National Church Life Survey

- Sign up now.
- When?** Hold survey in October or November. Receive results by Easter 2017.
- What?** A nationwide survey of over 20 Christian denominations.
- Who?** For church attenders aged 15+, children aged 8-14 and local church leaders.
- How?** Churches sign up at www.2016ncls.org.au

As the largest joint church project in the nation, the NCLS captures the story of Australian churches in an unparalleled way.

Such credible national research produces incomparable insights into ministry and mission for local churches, leaders, denominations and society to learn from.

How to sign up

Churches sign up by ordering surveys. To check the administrative arrangements for your denomination or region, contact your NCLS Regional Coordinator www.2016ncls.org.au/find-your-coordinator.

Three ways to order surveys

Please order before 30 June 2016.

Option 1: Work with your NCLS Regional Coordinator

www.2016ncls.org.au/find-your-coordinator

Option 2: Order surveys online

www.2016ncls.org.au/sign-up

Option 3: Use a printed 2016 NCLS Survey Order Form

Contact NCLS Research or download from www.2016ncls.org.au/sign-up

Orders open now!