

# FOCUSED ON THE

*future*



# The 2021 National Church Life Survey is on and your church is invited!

Will you join us?  
[2021ncls.org.au](https://2021ncls.org.au)

## Dear local church,

What if it only took 20 minutes to listen to all your church attenders in these changing times? And you get a report to inform your decisions for the future?

In October and November, thousands of churches across Australia will participate in the 2021 National Church Life Survey (2021 NCLS). The survey is designed to listen to the views of your leadership, attenders, and broader community to provide a picture of your church's health and vitality. The results will help you identify your strengths and provide processes to help you evaluate, make decisions and connect effectively with your community.

## Will you consider being part of the 2021 NCLS? Your involvement matters.

Our goal is to invest in the future vitality of your local church, and you will benefit from the credible mission research findings. You will gain valuable feedback on the effectiveness and sustainability of your ministry to help you navigate the future.

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

*R Powell*

**DR RUTH POWELL**  
DIRECTOR, NCLS RESEARCH  
ON BEHALF OF THE NCLS RESEARCH TEAM

### What?

A nationwide survey of church attenders spanning 20+ Christian denominations

### When?

- Sign up now (June–July 2021)
- Complete Church Life Survey (choose a survey period in October or November 2021)
- Receive results (early 2022)

### How?

Churches can sign up at:  
**2021ncls.org.au**

### Who?



Church attenders aged 15+  
Child attenders aged 8–14



Church leaders



People in your local  
community connected  
with your church

**2021**

**June – August: Order your surveys**

**September: Survey Kit arrives**

**October – November: Choose your survey period**

**December: Return completed surveys**

**2022**

**January – March: Get your results**





## About the 2021 National Church Life Survey

The upcoming 2021 NCLS involves more than 20 denominations and movements across Australia providing valuable insight into the wider Australian church.

The survey maps the presence of churches nationwide and shares the stories of the positive contribution churches make to their local communities. Results identify core qualities of vitality so churches can build on strengths, and steward the gifts and skills of their people more effectively.

To participate, churches only need to set aside 20 minutes for church attenders to complete the survey.

**Join in the largest survey of churches and of church leaders ever carried out in Australia. Will you take part?**

### The 2021 NCLS is expected to include:

- Thousands of churches
- 7,000+ church leaders
- 250,000 church attenders
- 20 + denominations
- Surveys in 8 languages

The NCLS is the largest longitudinal church survey in the world; held every 5 years since 1991.

### The purpose? To encourage church vitality

The overriding purpose is to help churches to be more vital and healthy. Our vision is from Jesus' statement "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

We need many diverse voices, including yours!

Your participation is the only way we can provide high quality research and resources for the whole Australian church. Would you consider taking part to represent the denominational, cultural and geographic diversity of our churches?

**Sign up now: [2021ncls.org.au](https://2021ncls.org.au)**

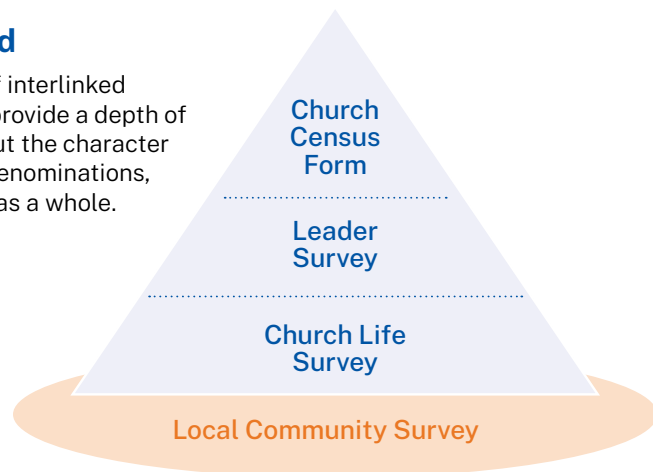
**“NCLS survey results have helped me to understand congregational assets and challenges, and to help our team map these trends over years”**

### 2021 NCLS Participating Denominations:

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

## 2021 NCLS explained

The 2021 NCLS is a series of interlinked surveys. Together they will provide a depth of information and insight about the character of local churches, regions, denominations, and the Church in Australia as a whole.



## When? October or November 2021

Choose a survey period that suits your church.

| SURVEY  | WHY?   | WHO   | REGISTER  | COST                                       |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Census form:</b><br>About congregations/parishes                 | All churches will be asked to describe their resources: people, staff and activities.  | 1 survey per church   | All churches in Australia will receive this                                 | Free to participate*                       |
| <b>Leader Survey:</b><br>About effective and sustainable leadership | Local leaders will reflect on leadership development and personal wellbeing, particularly at this unusual time.  | Local church leaders (ministers/ pastors/ priests) and lay leaders  | All churches will receive this  | Free to participate*                       |
| <b>Church Life Survey:</b><br>About church health                   | Give every church attendee a voice. It will help you identify the current strengths in your church, which is an effective step toward future vitality. | All church attendees aged 15+ (Child attendees 8-14 years optional) | Sign up to participate <a href="http://2021ncls.org.au">2021ncls.org.au</a> | \$250 plus \$2 per survey ordered (ex GST) |
| <b>Local Community Survey</b><br>(Optional)                         | Learn about views and practices of people connected to the church (beyond regular attendees) to more effectively connect with your community.          | Local community residents   | Sign up to participate <a href="http://2021ncls.org.au">2021ncls.org.au</a> | \$200 (unlimited surveys)                  |

\*Denominations may opt to pay for reports based on the Church Census and the Leaders Survey for churches in their regions

## 4 reasons to participate in the 2021 NCLS

1. Receive your own church results to help shape your ministry and mission into the future
2. Help church leaders reflect on leadership development and personal wellbeing
3. Help your denomination better understand the gifts and challenges of local churches
4. Be part of the national snapshot of the whole Australian Church

## How much will it cost?

Every local church will receive a Church Census form and Leaders Surveys to complete at no cost. (Denominations may opt to pay for regional reports).

**\$250 plus \$2 per Church Life Survey:** Order enough Church Life Surveys for your church attendees. Receive your own church's survey results in a Church Life Profile as part of a Church Life Pack.

**\$200 option:** Add a Local Community Survey for a flat fee of \$200 to help you hear the views of people in the community (beyond regular attendees).

Find out more at [2021ncls.org.au](http://2021ncls.org.au)

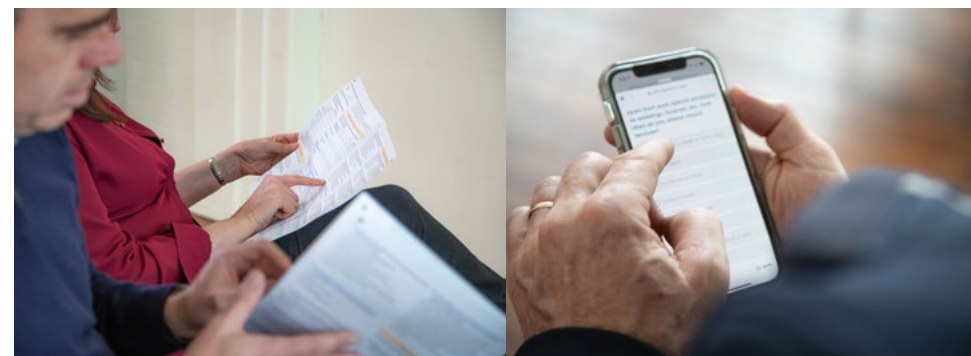
## How do I sign up?

Sign up by ordering (hardcopy or online) surveys for your church online [2021ncls.org.au/order](http://2021ncls.org.au/order)

Your denomination or region may have signed up on your behalf. You can contact your NCLS regional coordinator to check the arrangements [2021ncls.org.au/local-churches/find-your-coordinator/](http://2021ncls.org.au/local-churches/find-your-coordinator/)

## Got a question?

You can find more information online at [2021ncls.org.au](http://2021ncls.org.au)





2021ncls.org.au



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