

# The 2011 National Church Life Survey: Building on 20 Years

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We are excited to announce that we will be building on the strong foundations of 20 years of research across the Australian Church with the 2011 National Church Life Survey (NCLS). The 2011 survey is being designed to be more flexible than ever before so that it can be customised to more effectively resource the needs of your local church, or denomination. As the largest church survey in the world, participating in the 2011 NCLS is an opportunity for leaders and churches to be part of something significant.

### Consulting with denominations

During February and March 2010, the NCLS Research team visited each capital city to consult with denominational representatives to hear their feedback on ideas. This dialogue was critical for a venture, which, at its heart, aims to serve God's churches in mission.

### Flexible and innovative

The flexibility of the 2011 survey will allow denominations and local churches to customise their survey to enable the most relevant information to be collected. For example, in addition to the core Church Life Survey, churches may be given the option to add survey modules relevant to their context, including modules for youth, kids, mission activities, and even the wider community.

We will focus on innovation in church life as well as on sustainable leadership; how leaders can thrive, not just survive.

### Building on strengths

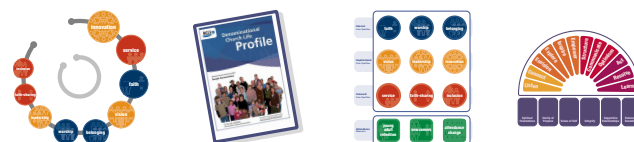
Each local church that takes part receives a personalised Church Life Profile, with resources to help identify strengths and plan for the future. Our proven, credible research

framework around church vitality will equip leaders with a greater understanding of the health and life in their church. The 2011 NCLS will also enable participating churches to measure change over time, with user-friendly clear comparison charts with results from the 2001, 2006 and 2011 surveys.

Details on how you can be involved will be released in coming months.

### Some reasons for a 2011 NCLS

- Describes what is: mapping a changing landscape
- Evaluates church health and vitality
- Reviews progress over time; to take stock and plan
- Helps local churches to identify & build on strengths
- Helps local church leaders in their leadership
- Effectively resources denominational consultants
- Provides an overview for denominational leadership
- Provides a rich data source for researchers
- Can inform the wider community and correct myths



### Participating Churches

In the 2006 around 400,000 attenders from churches in the following denominations took part: Anglican, Apostolic, Australian Christian Churches (AOC), Baptist, Brethren, Catholic, Christian Missionary Alliance, C3 Churches, COC, Australia, Congregational, CRC Churches International, Church of the Nazarene, Churches of Christ, Four Square Gospel, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Christian Reformed Churches, Salvation Army, Seventh-day Adventist, Uniting Church, Vineyard Fellowship, Worldwide Church of God, and independent congregations, house churches and other Christian communities.

### References

Ruth Powell with the NCLS Research team.