



2011 National Church Life Survey

Terms & Conditions DRAFT

February 2011

NCLS Research offers a survey of Australian churches similar to those they conducted in 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006 to take place in the second half of 2011.

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1. Definitions for this document:

Local church = any individual parish or congregation or regular gathering for Christian worship

Region = any collection of local churches (usually geographically based and of the same denomination) that are grouped together for administrative or leadership or denominational purposes – e.g. a Diocese, a Synod, a Presbytery, a State, a Region.

2. Survey 2011:

- a. As in previous Surveys the 2011 Survey will be conducted at a local church level and will have three sections:
 - **Attender Survey** for church attenders aged 15+
 - **Leaders Survey** for those exercising leadership in the particular local church
 - **Operations Survey** – in effect an audit of the local church's programs, groups, context, land, etc. which is filled out by one person (usually an administrator) in the local church.
- b. Local churches that participate in the 2011 Survey are also offered three additional add-on surveys. They may choose to purchase and participate in all, some or none of them. These surveys are:
 - **Children Survey** for church attenders aged under 15 years of age (aimed at ages 10-14)
 - **Youth Survey** for young people, both those who attend Sunday services and those who don't but who have some connection to the local church; this will be an online survey to be available over a three month period
 - **Community Contacts Survey** who are not regular attenders, but who have some connection to the local church; this will be an online survey to be available over a three month period.
- c. Regions and Denominations may contract to insert their own questions into the Attender Survey; NCLS Research will assist Regional Coordinators to shape these questions professionally.

3. Regional Coordinators:

- a. Every Region with local churches participating in the Survey will appoint a Regional Coordinator that NCLS Research will work through. As a general rule, NCLS Research will not work with individual local churches, but only through the Regional Coordinator.
- b. NCLS Research will maintain contact with the Regional Coordinator and will generally channel local church information, resources and promotional material through them.

- c. Regional Coordinators will liaise with NCLS Research to ensure that NCLS Research's list of local churches of the Region is accurate.
- d. Regional Coordinators will oversee and/or monitor the:
 - ordering of Survey packages by participating local churches of the Region
 - timing of the Survey for local churches within the Survey month
 - return of the Surveys to NCLS Research by participating local churches (postage paid by NCLS Research)
 - payment to NCLS Research
 - the processes that participating local churches use to integrate the survey findings into their life and planning when they receive the Church Life Profile Packs from NCLS Research.
- e. NCLS Research will resource Regional Coordinators to assist participating local churches to use their Survey Profiles to best advantage, through material and post Survey workshops.
- f. NCLS Research will be an ongoing resource for Regional Coordinators for all things to do with the Survey and its findings.

4. Survey Results 2011:

- a. As in previous Surveys, NCLS Research will send to participating local churches feedback from their Survey in the form of a Church Life Profile, along with other resources to enable churches to get maximum benefit from the information in the Profile.
- b. Local churches with less than 10 participants in the Attender Survey may receive a summary form of results in order to preserve the confidentiality of individual attenders. Their data will still be included in the regional, denominational and national results.
- c. All Church Life Profiles will also be made available online, but with password protection.
- d. NCLS Research will supply the password that gives online access to individual Church Life Profiles to the leadership of the participating local church and to the church's Regional Leadership unless instructed otherwise in writing.
- e. Feedback to individual Leader Surveys will be made online and password protected. NCLS Research will make the password available only to the individual leader who participated in the Leader Survey.
- f. NCLS Research will provide a Regional Church Life Profile, being an amalgamation of the Church Life Profiles of participating local churches, to Regional leadership.

- g. NCLS Research will provide a Denominational Church Life Profile, being an amalgamation of the Church Life Profiles of participating local churches, to denominational leadership. All individual leader survey results remain confidential.
- h. NCLS Research will provide a Regional Leadership Profile, being an amalgamation of the results of the Leadership Surveys of participating local churches, to Regional leadership.
- i. NCLS Research will continue to investigate the collected data to produce Occasional Papers and Fact Sheets at a national, denominational and regional level.

5. Survey Costs 2011:

- a. The full cost of the National Church Life Survey for local churches is \$200 plus \$1 per Attender Survey ordered.
- b. Should an entire Region participate in the Survey, then all local churches in that Region will receive a 20% discount on the standing charge for the Survey (i.e. reducing the standing charge from \$200 to \$160).
- c. The cost of the three optional add-on surveys NCLS Research is offering participating local churches is:
 - **Children Survey** for church attenders aged under 15 years of age (aimed at ages 10-14) = \$1 per Children's Survey Questionnaire ordered.
 - **Youth Survey** for young people – an online survey for those who attend Sunday services and those who don't but who have some connection to the local church = \$50 per 100 participants (or part thereof)
 - **Community Contacts Survey** – an online survey for those who are not regular attenders, but who have some connection to the local church = \$50 per 100 participants (or part thereof)
- d. The cost for Regional or Denominational questions to be included in the Attender Survey for the Region's or Denomination's participating local churches will be \$1,000 per question. This cost also covers the report that NCLS Research will provide to the Region or Denomination
- e. There are no extra charges for the Leadership Survey and Operations Survey, nor for the Church Life Pack that NCLS Research will issue to churches, regions and denominations with their Survey findings.
- f. There is no extra charge for the findings from any of the three additional Surveys that local churches may choose to add to their National Church Life Survey (refer 'd.' above).
- g. There is no extra charge for the individual leadership findings NCLS Research generate online for leaders participating in the Leaders Survey.

6. Small Church Clustering:

- a. Regions that are primarily composed of small and very small local churches (e.g. some rural Regions) may apply for the Small Church Clustering alternative.
- b. With the approval of NCLS Research these churches with small or very small attendances may be clustered together for the sake of the Survey and will be treated as one church.
- c. The cluster will pay only one standing fee of \$200 plus \$1 per Attender Survey ordered for all the churches and the cluster will receive back one Church Life Pack that gives the Survey findings for that cluster.
- d. The cluster can be an existing cluster (e.g. a deanery) or one that is set up only for the Survey.
- e. Individual churches within these clusters may apply to NCLS Research to generate their own individual Church Life Profile, provided the church has returned at least 10 completed attender surveys. The cost to generate this individual Church Life Profile is \$50.

7. Invoicing:

- a. A written Survey quotation will be given to each Region based on the number of participating local churches and the estimated number of Attender Surveys to be ordered.
- b. Once the Region has accepted the quotation in writing, NCLS Research will invoice the Region for 30% of the quoted amount.
- c. Once NCLS Research has dispatched the Survey packages of questionnaires for the participating local churches of the Region, NCLS Research will invoice the Region for the balance owing.

8. Timing:

- a. The National Church Life Survey will be conducted over the months of September, October and November 2011.
- b. Each participating denomination will be given one of these months as their survey month.
- c. Participating local churches will conduct the Survey within that month at times that they regard as most opportune.

- d. Local churches will return their completed surveys to NCLS Research as soon as possible after completion, but certainly within a calendar month.
- e. NCLS Research intends to return Church Life Profile packs to participating local churches early in 2012 - before Easter 2012.
- f. NCLS Research intends to return the confidential findings from the Leadership Survey to individual leaders before Easter 2012.
- g. NCLS Research intends to return the findings from the three optional additional surveys before Easter 2012.
- h. NCLS Research intends to return the findings from the Regional/Denominational questions before Easter 2012 in the form of a Commissioned Question Reports for Denominational Leaders (pdf).

9. Permissions:

- a. The National Church Life Survey data remains the property of NCLS Research.
- b. NCLS Research gives permission for churches to use their own Profile data within their church (local data in the local church, regional data at the regional level of the church and denominational data at the denominational level).
- c. In order to use the data beyond these levels or in a more public forum, written permission must be received from NCLS Research. NCLS Research will not withhold such permission for what it regards as reasonable requests that are aimed primarily at furthering the mission of the church.
- d. If further analysis and reports are desired based on denominational commissioned questions, then the following options are available:
 - *Researchers.* It is possible to approach NCLS researchers and commission them to conduct further analysis. Alternatively, a research licence can be applied for by the commissioning body so that data can be made available to other researchers.
 - *Research Licence:* A licence will be granted by the NCLS Research Steering Committee upon receipt and approval of a research project proposal from the commissioning body. The commissioned dataset would not be released to any external researchers without the written permission of the commissioning body or representative.
 - *Fees:* There will be no further charge to the commissioning body for access to the items in the relevant denominational survey dataset. Fees for researcher time would depend on the arrangements with NCLS researchers or external researchers.

Signed for NCLS Research

Signed for participating Region

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Dr. Ruth Powell

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Date:.....

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