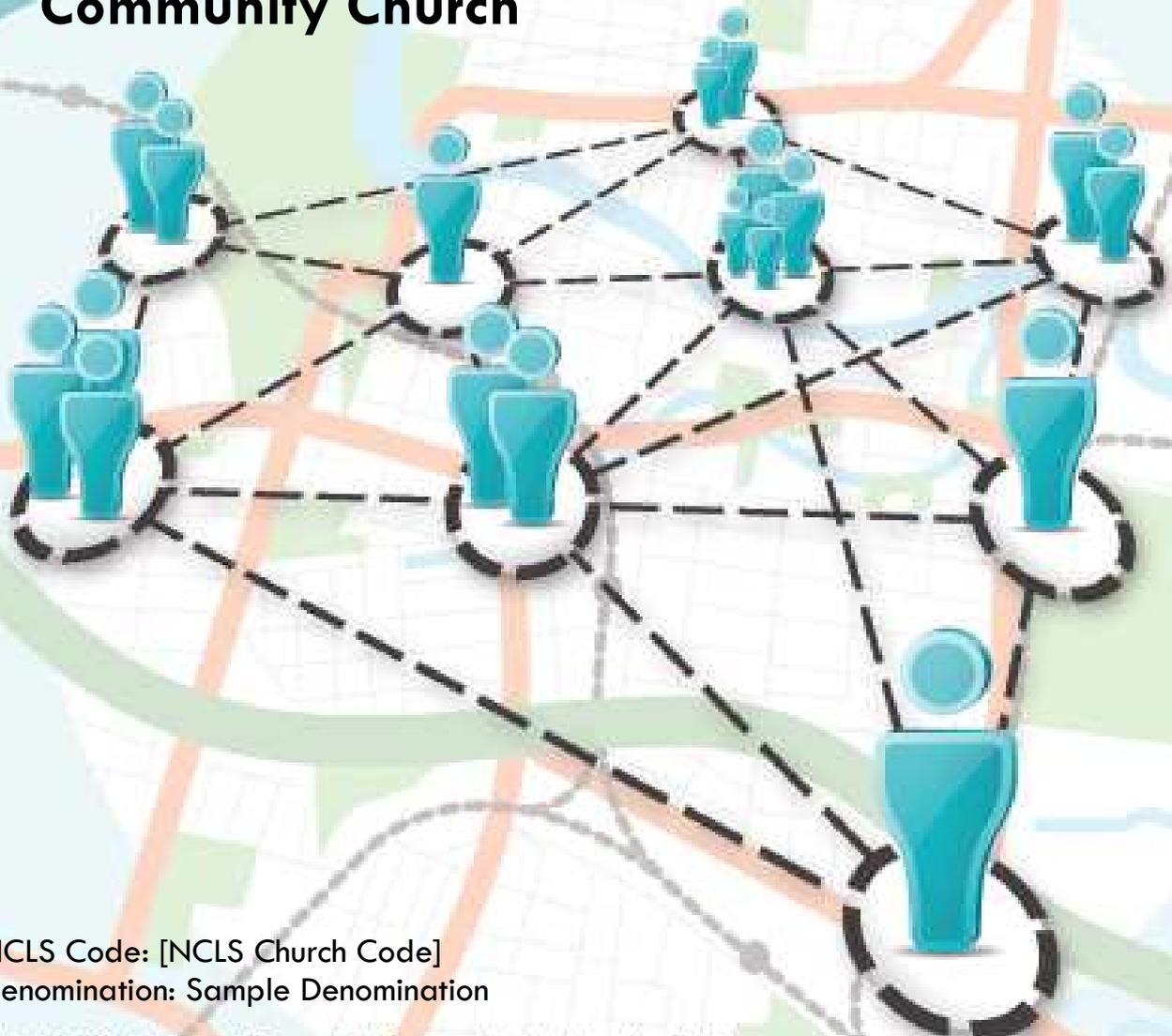


DRAFT CONCEPT – FEB 2011



Community Contacts Profile

National Church Life Survey 2011
Community Church



NCLS Code: [NCLS Church Code]
Denomination: Sample Denomination

Communities are always evolving. No matter how involved we are in our local community we are, changes may occur. Churches that understand their local community are in a better position to connect meaningfully with them.

about our community

How do people feel about the neighbourhood? What do they see are the needs, think of the contribution local churches make to it?

How long have you lived in the area?	no years
Average no of years lived in this local area	12

Overall, how do you feel about your neighbourhood?	(%)
Delighted	
Pleased	
Mostly satisfied	
Mixed feelings	
Mostly dissatisfied	
Secondary schools	
Mostly satisfied	

What do you think are the good characteristics or strengths of your neighbourhood? (Mark ALL that apply)	(%)
Friendly and inclusive	
Relaxed and comfortable	
Natural beauty	
Diversity of ethnicities	
Culture and creativity	
Easy access to transport, services and infrastructure	
Quiet and private	

How would you rate access to services in the local community or area?	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Poor (%)	Very poor (%)	Don't know (%)
Aged care accommodation					
Services for the disabled					
Counselling services					
Youth facilities & activities					
Pre-school care facilities					
Secondary schools					

about our community

How much of a problem are the following in your local community? (Mark ALL that apply)	(%)
Decline of churches	
Decline in local business	
Withdrawal of government services & banks	
Lack of support for the poor	
Decline in quality of the natural environment	
Drought	
Too many people leaving the wider community	
Crime	
Racial conflict	

What support services do you think are needed in your local community? (Mark ALL that apply)	(%)
Meals and Affordable food	
Literacy programs and services eg reading groups, homework clubs	
English as a Second Language services	
Elderly and isolated persons support	
Childcare and Early Childhood education	
New arrivals welcome	
Disability services and carers support	
Financial planning	
Safety House network	
Natural disaster support and trauma recovery	
Relationship and family counselling	

How much would you say that churches have contributed to your local community?	Not at all (%)	A little (%)	Quite a lot (%)	A great deal (%)	Don't know/NA (%)
Providing schools					
Supporting the poor					
Providing youth activities					
Challenging injustices					
Encouraging good morals					
Running social activities					
Listening to peoples' concerns in the area					

spirituality in our community

What do community members believe about spiritual matters?

Do you have a strong sense of meaning or purpose in life?	Your community contacts (2011) (%)
A strong sense	
Some sense	
No sense	
Don't know	

To what extent do you see yourself as a spiritual person?										
Not spiritual at all 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Very spiritual 10

In the past 12 months, how often have you done the following? (Mark all that apply)	Often (%)	Occasionally (%)	Once (%)	Never (%)
Looked at Internet sites about religion or spirituality				
Sought direction from a horoscope, tarot, fortune teller or similar method				
Practised Eastern meditation				
Read books or attended seminars connected with the New Age movement				
Explored or used psychic healing crystals				

Which of these statements comes closest to your belief?	Your community contacts (2011) (%)
There is a personal God	
There is some sort of spirit or life force	
I don't really know what to think	
I don't really think there is any sort of spirit, God or life force	

How important is God in your life?	Your community contacts (2011) (%)
God does not matter to me at all	
Fairly important, but many other things are more important	
God is more important to me than almost anything else	
God is the most important reality in my life	

How often do you pray or meditate?	Your community contacts (2011) (%)	Australian Community (2009 AuSSA) (%)
Never		
Hardly ever		
Occasionally		
Once a week		
A few times a week		
Every day/most days		
Several times a day		
Don't know		

spirituality in our community

Do you believe that you have personally experienced God's presence through the following? (Mark all that apply) <small>N.B. Results may not add up to 100% as respondents could choose multiple responses.</small>	Often (%)	Occasionally (%)	Once (%)	Never (%)
The flow of daily life				
A powerful experience of nature				
An answer to prayer in unusual circumstances				
Through feeling guilty about doing something wrong				
Through miraculous healing				
The Eucharist/ Holy Communion				
Hearing or reading the Bible				
Hearing a sermon or homily				

Do you reflect on or share experiences like those listed above? (Mark all that apply) <small>N.B. Results may not add up to 100% as respondents could choose multiple responses.</small>	Your community contacts (2011) (%)
A deep sense of oneness with nature	
A sense of being very close to God	
A sense of the presence of someone who has died	
A profound sense of inner peace or joy	

How important are the following as principles for guiding your life?	Most important (%)	Quite important (%)	Not important (%)
Being a good citizen			
Being successful			
The teachings of my religion			
Being wealthy			
Caring for others			
Being admired			
Focussing on family			
Relationship with God			

What is your current religious denomination?	Your community contacts (2011) (%)	Your community (Census 2006) (%)	Australia (Census 2006) (%)
Anglican (C of E)			
Baptist			
Catholic			
Lutheran			
Orthodox (e.g. Greek, Russian)			
Pentecostal (e.g. Assemblies of God)			
Presbyterian or Reformed			
Uniting			
Buddhist			
Hindu			
Jewish			
Muslim			
Other			
No religion			

FAST FACTS ON SPIRITUALITY:

- X% of people in Australian communities believe in something beyond this life
- Most people Z% would say they follow a Christian life philosophy
- Y% believe in God (2009, Australian Survey of Social Attitudes)



Community Spirituality Fact Sheets
www.ncls.org.au/spiritualityseries

about churches

What do local community members think about churches? What would discourage them from attending a local church? What would be important?

Apart from weddings, funerals and christenings, about how often do you attend religious services these days?	(%)
Never, practically never	
Less than once a year	
Once or twice a year	
Several times a year	
Once a month	
Two or three times a month	
Once a week	
More than once a week	

Within the last five years, have you ever gone to a church with a view to getting involved, but decided not to get involved?	(%)
Yes	
No	

If you do not attend church services regularly is it because? (Mark all that apply)	(%)
I have other commitments/ lack of time	
I do not find it relevant	
I do not feel I belong at church	
It's not a priority for me	
I've had bad experiences of church/ ministers/ members	
I don't agree with some of the church's beliefs	
I don't agree with how church is organised	
I'm happy enough with my own relationship with God	
None of these reasons apply to me	

Do any of the following put you off or discourage them, personally from going to church?	(%)
The beliefs the churches hold	
The church worship services are too boring or unfulfilling	
Personal bad experiences of church people or ministers	
I feel uncomfortable with the sort of people who go to church	
The moral views of churches	
The way the churches are organised	
There are no churches of my denomination nearby	
I have no transport	
I see no need	
Not enough time or too many other commitments	

about churches

If you were to go to a religious service, how important would the following aspects be to them, personally?	Very important	Important	Of little importance	Of no importance	I would never go
The service be within 10 minutes drive of home					
Going with a close friend or relative					
Meeting with people of similar age or interests to myself					
The service to last no longer than an hour					
The service be run in a traditional style					
The service be run in a modern style					
The message be personally relevant to my life					
People be accepting of me as I am					
I am able to choose how involved I am without feeling pressured					

If the local church offered the following, which would you be most interested in?	(%)
Church services (services of worship)	
Special celebrations of important events (weddings, funerals, baptisms, community events)	
Welfare/community service activities (eg emergency relief, help for disabled, aged care)	
Helping people think about faith and spirituality	
Educational activities	
Social or recreational (eg craft, sports)	
Activities for primary-school aged children	
Activities for secondary-school aged children	
Activities for the whole family	

During the past 12 months, how often have you had contact with a church or religious organisation?	Not at all	Once or twice	Several times (monthly or more)	Frequently
Received help such as food, clothing, rental assistance				
Been visited by a minister, priest or chaplain (eg in hospital or at home)				
Used church counselling services (eg Lifeline, Creditline)				

Engage the findings

- Q 1
- Q 2

FAST FACTS: COMMUNITY VIEWS ABOUT CHURCH

- X% believe that churches make a positive contribution to society
 - Y% believe that church leaders should not be involved in politics
 - Z% do not trust religious institutions
- 2009, Australian Survey of Social Attitudes

 Download a PDF version of the Fact Sheet 'Churches with a Faith-Sharing Culture'

 Download Occasional Paper 13: Faith Sharing

 Read more about Community Attitudes to Church
www.ncls.org.au/spiritualityseries

about this church

[insert name of church]

How do community members connect with the life of this church? How do they feel here?

What is your main connection to this church?	(%)
My children attend the church school	
My children attend the children's programs/ activities	
A family member attends the church regularly	
I sometimes participate in the church activities	
I received material assistance from the church	
I received pastoral assistance from the church	
I am a volunteer in the church here	
I work with the church here	
I donate money/ goods to the church	
Other	

How long have you been connecting with this church?	(%)
Less than 1 year	
1-2 years	
3-5 years	
6- 10 years	
11-20 years	
More than 20 years	
I am visiting from another congregation	
I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere else	

Is your connection with this church usually a pleasant experience or a stressful one?	(%)
Pleasant	
Functional	
Stressful	

If you participate in activities at this church, which activities are you regularly involved in here?	(%)
Playgroup/ Mainly music	
Childrens and parents group	
Careforce/ personal healing small group	
Counselling	
Discussion group	
Community meal/ food sharing program	
Other	

about this church

How often do you go to activities at this church?	(%)
This is my first time	
Hardly ever/never/special occasions only	
Less than once a month	
Once a month	
Two or three time a month	
Usually every week	
More than once a week	

Do you have a strong sense of being welcomed and included in the life of this church?	(%)
Yes, a strong sense of inclusion, which is growing	
Yes, a strong sense – about the same as last year	
Yes, although not as strongly as in the past	
No, but I am new here	
No, and I wish I did by now	
No, but I am happy as I am	
Don't know / not applicable	

Do you connect with other churches as well?	(%)
Yes	
No	

During the past 12 months, if you attended church, did you attend at this church or somewhere else?	(%)
At this church	
At another church/es	
Both	

Engage the findings

Q 1

Q 2

Q3

about those surveyed

Of the people surveyed, what are their demographics? How do they compare with the rest of your community?

How old are you?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
15-29			
30-45			
46-64			
65+			

Are you male or female?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
Female			
Male			

How long have you lived in this area?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
Less than 12 months			
1-5 years			
6-10 years			
More than 10 years			

What is your marital status?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
Never married			
Married			
In a defacto relationship			
Separated or divorced			
Widowed			

What is your employment status?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
Employed			
Employer/ self employed			
Home duties			
Student			
Unemployed			
Retired			

about those surveyed

Where were you born?	Your Community Contacts (2011)	Your community (Census 2006)	Australia (Census 2006)
Australia			
Another English-speaking country			
Another country (where English is not the main language)			
- Africa			
- Asia			
- Europe			
- Indian subcontinent			
- Middle East			
- Pacific Islands			
- Other			

Postcode where you reside	(%)
5122	
5123	
5038	
5042	
5043	

Engage the findings

Q 1

Q 2

Q3