

Media Release

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The 2021 National Church Life Survey continues the world's largest survey of local church life

The Board and Staff of NCLS Research are pleased to announce the 2021 National Church Life Survey (2021 NCLS) will take place in October and November 2021.

The Australia-wide survey, conducted by NCLS Research, expects thousands of churches to again take part, across more than 20 denominations. The NCLS has been held every five years since 1991. In 2021, it will reach 30 years of research into church and community life, retaining its place as the largest, longest running survey of its type in the world.

"As churches respond to social changes, it is more important than ever to have an informed approach to modern day ministry. Through the NCLS we work towards our vision of thriving churches with an understanding of their role and mission within a changing society," says Dr Ruth Powell, NCLS Research Director. "Our mission remains to provide credible research, to identify signs of hope and nurture life in churches, leadership and communities."

The 2021 NCLS will produce a snapshot of the role of faith in the lives of individuals, the place of local churches in their communities, and an assessment of local and denominational church vitality. Responding to changing needs, the 2021 NCLS will be adaptive and innovative in its approach.

Research findings at the local, denominational and national levels aim to resource and equip leadership to meet the challenges of these complex times.

"It is not only the democratisation of research, asking the people in the pews, but a solid theoretical frame, within which to interpret the results, that gives our findings a nuanced perspective that embraces complexity," explains Dr Powell. "We believe that we have built trust, credibility and respect as a result of this approach. It is also a testimony to the collaboration of so many church leaders from diverse theological and geographic backgrounds."

The NCLS encourages active participation in a positive, inclusive review process, to help churches discern their directions and establish a life-giving vision for the future.

**For more information and a media kit
go to www.2021ncls.org.au/media**

For additional comment contact

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