



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

About the 2021 NCLS Child Survey for 8 to 14 year olds

And the 2021 NCLS Attender Survey for those aged 15 plus

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Every five years, people attending churches across Australia take part in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). The aims of the survey are to give church attenders a voice about their experiences of church life, to carry out research to assist churches in their ministry and mission, and to provide statistics about churches in a changing and diverse Australia.

**Child Survey:** This year, a special survey will be offered to children aged 8 to 14 who attend your church's activities. This survey asks them about their faith and their opinions about church. This survey is completely anonymous and is conducted in a way that is associated with normal church activities.

**Attender Survey:** This survey is to be completed by people aged 15 plus. Under current Australian law the minimum age is 16 for filling in a survey without parental consent. So, if you have a 15 year old child, you may choose not to consent to their completion of this survey.

There is no obligation for your child to complete this survey. Please make this clear to them. Further, if you do not wish your child to take part, please notify your church. Otherwise your church will assume that you have no issue with your child taking part.

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**The 2021 NCLS Child Survey for 8 to 14 year olds  
and the 2021 NCLS Attender Survey for those aged 15 plus  
is optional, anonymous and confidential.  
It will take around 15 to 20 minutes to complete.  
PLEASE ASSIST YOUR CHILD TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY  
OR NOTIFY YOUR CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD  
TO TAKE PART IN EITHER OF THESE SURVEYS.**

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**About NCLS Research:** The mission of NCLS Research is to help identify signs of hope in churches and its leadership, providing a credible research base to build vitality and connect churches and communities. NCLS Research staff are supported by sponsoring agencies: ANGLICARE (Sydney), Uniting Mission and Education, and Uniting, (NSW & the ACT), and Baptistcare NSW/ACT. The National Church Life Survey is a five-yearly cooperative venture across all churches in Australia. Around 300,000 attenders in thousands of local churches in 22 Christian denominations have taken part in National Church Life Surveys in 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Ethics and Compliance Unit via the following contact details: The Governance Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee, Ethics and Compliance Unit, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, Phone: (02) 6933 4213, Email: [ethics@csu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@csu.edu.au) Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.