



# National Church Life Survey

June to November 2006

## How your denomination/movement can participate and benefit

*"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"*

John 10:10

The NCLS Research team works with churches across denominations and traditions to explore and nurture fullness of life in Christ Jesus. Over 15 years we have worked with churches throughout Australia and overseas to gather and analyse millions of survey responses from church attenders and leaders.

### A voice for your attenders

NCLS 2006 can help you to hear the voice of your church attenders - clearly and accurately.

NCLS Research uses tools and insights of social inquiry to report faithfully the motives, behaviours and experiences of your church attenders - as they have expressed them in answers to survey questions.

These stories of your church life are told in:

- Images and numbers in survey reports;
- Research findings and suggestions provided by NCLS Research; and,
- Your ongoing use of survey results when discussing, planning, implementing and reviewing mission and ministry.

### Qualities for vitality in church life

Our research and resources can help denominational bodies, interchurch networks, regions, parishes and congregations assess important qualities for vitality in church life, including:

- Faith - Alive and growing
- Worship - Vital and nurturing
- Belonging - Strong and growing
- Vision - Clear and owned
- Leadership - Inspiring and empowering
- Innovation - Open and flexible
- Service - practical and involved
- Faith-sharing - Spiritual and willing
- Inclusion - Intentional and faithful

Survey results also help congregations assess patterns and components of church attendance.

### Denominational report

NCLS Research will consult you and provide to you a strategic report about your denomination, state, diocese or region. The report will analyse qualities for vitality in church life.

### Congregational/parish resources

Congregations will receive resources to help them see and appreciate the qualities of vitality in church life they already have, and to nurture and grow these qualities. Resources for congregations are explained further in a separate brochure entitled "How your congregation can participate and benefit".

### Access to raw data

Raw data files can be provided for your own analysis. NCLS Research can also assist with 'in house' research queries.

### Leadership report

A new report on congregational leadership can provide a wealth of information for strategic insights into sustainability and effectiveness of clergy, rural/urban trends, team issues and more. (NB. Responses are confidential and information about individual ministers will not be provided).

### Attendance analysis

Reports can include analysis of how attendance has changed over time, including the pattern of people joining and leaving your churches. Further information will include small group participation, rural/urban trends, church plant analysis and more.



# Ideas for using resources

## Assess mission and ministry

NCLS Research will provide robust measures to help denominational leaders distil what is happening in participating churches. Comparing church profiles and discussion between ministers can yield fresh insights for mission and ministry.

## Discern trends over time

Reports will show trends by comparing results with 2001 and 2006 survey data, providing better understanding of how attitudes, experiences and attendance have changed.

## Review congregational leadership

Profile reports assess important qualities of church vitality and health, providing language and measures to discuss issues of effectiveness and sustainability beyond just attendance figures.

## Seasonal planning

NCLS 2006 can create a common season among churches. We encourage denominational leaders to intentionally integrate this season into your emphases and programs during 2006 and beyond.

## NCLS Research can work with you

The NCLS Research team values opportunities to meet and share with denominational officers, ministers and lay leaders.

## Train your mission planners

NCLS Research can work with mission planners, consultants and other facilitators to use survey resources and results in their work with congregations.

## Financial contributions

Wide participation will make NCLS 2006 more valuable for all churches and NCLS Research encourages all churches to participate.

Proposed contributions for NCLS 2006 are:

- \$100 per church (parish),
- \$1 per attender survey form ordered.

These will cover:

- Resources and profiles for participating churches,
- Resources include materials to encourage ministry, interpret results and plan for mission,

- Congregational profile research reports within 3 months of returning survey forms (20% of the time required for NCLS 2001),
- Resources and profiles for denominational, network, diocesan or regional leadership,
- Denominational briefings by NCLS staff.

Some denominations meet all participation contributions; others share contributions with local churches. Options to consider include:

- negotiate a discount for bulk participation and reduce costs for NCLS Research,
- pay by instalment,
- share costs with local churches, eg
  - denomination to pay the Resource Fee (\$100 per congregation/parish) and on charge the Participation Fee to congregations (\$1 per attender),
  - Denomination to pay the Participation Fee (\$1 per attender) and on charge the Resource Fee (\$100 per congregation/parish),
  - Denomination to pay a set figure or proportion of either contribution as an incentive for participation,
  - Link survey participation funding with other denominational programs.

Please contact the NCLS Research Operations Manager for specific discussion.

*NCLS Research is a small team committed to making NCLS 2006 a positive activity for all participants.*



*Please contact us to discuss and address the needs and circumstances of your denomination.*



## Contact

Please ring your denominational or movement office and speak to your survey coordinator.

