

What is the NCLS?

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is an interdenominational survey which has been undertaken every 5 years for the past 30 years around Australia.

The Survey provides churches with evidence-based information to help in Mission Planning, and collects information that helps reflect on your vitality, life, signs of hope and assists in identifying ways to connect with the wider community. This is especially important for those congregations who are creating Christian Community at times other than Sundays e.g. Messy Church etc.

Why participate?

The participation of every congregation that is involved in Messy Church is particularly important, as the NCLS is intended to be a life-giving resource for congregations that assists the whole church across Australia to make informed decisions. Your Messy Church's participation will provide your church with an opportunity to:

- Hear the attitudes and beliefs of all people in the church (including those you do not always get to hear).
- Obtain reliable information to make informed decisions on where to use your resources for mission.
- Learn from other churches and help identify wider trends.
- Identify the priorities and hopes of people in your Messy Church congregation.
- Have a framework to assess your church's health (vitality).
- Identify your strengths for effective strength-based planning and growth.
- Gauge how your church compares with other similar churches.
- Better support and develop your leaders and their skills for ministry and leadership.
- Create a more accurate profile of your denomination to inform effective pastoral and strategic missional leadership.
- Accurately inform the wider Australian community of the Messy Church's story and to challenge myths.

How does it work?

The surveys can be divided in three categories.

1) Church Census & Leaders Surveys

- a) *Church Census*: A map of people, activities and resources in local congregations.
- b) *Leader Surveys*: Reflect on the personal wellbeing and development of leaders.

2) Attenders Surveys (Church Life Survey)

For all attenders to reflect on their experience of local church vitality. (Especially Messy Churches)

3) Community Surveys: To learn about views and practices of people in the community.

We would like to encourage all Messy Church congregations to participate at least in the first two categories, as well as considering the benefit of the third. Surveys are usually, but not necessarily completed during or after a worship service or gathering and can be done either in paper or electronic (internet based) formats.



How much does it cost?

The costs are as follow:

- 1) Church Census & Leader Surveys \$75 per church
- 2) Attender Surveys (Church Life survey) \$250 + \$2 per Survey
- 3) Community Surveys (If required) \$200

Denominational offices in some states/places will cover some of the costs for congregations so please contact your local denominational office to clarify details.

When will what happen?

The anticipated timeline for the upcoming NCLS is as follow:

1. **Ordering of Surveys:** June / July
2. **Conducting Surveys:** October - November
3. **Receiving feedback:** Early 2022

What's next?

NCLS orders can be done online: <https://2021ncls.org.au>

