

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

**The 2026 NCLS Child Survey for 8 to 15 year olds
is optional, anonymous and confidential.
It will take around 15 to 20 minutes to complete.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE CONSENT FORM OVER THE PAGE TO
CONFIRM IF YOU DO or DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART.**

Return this signed Consent form to the Survey Co-ordinator at your church.

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 Australia.

About the Child Survey (for 8 to 15 years)

A special survey will be offered to children aged 8 to 15 who attend your church's activities. This survey asks them about their faith, wellbeing and their opinions about church. This survey is conducted in a way that is associated with normal church activities. The Child Survey has been in previous National Church Life Surveys. Some features of the survey are:

- it is optional, confidential and anonymous
- because it is anonymous, completed responses cannot be withdrawn later.

Over the page, please indicate if you do or do not consent for your child aged 8 to 15 to participate. There is no obligation for your child to complete this survey. Please make this clear to them.

Churches will be asked to arrange an alternate activity for non-participating children (including children whose parents/carers do not return a consent form).

About the Attender Survey (for 16 plus)

There is a general Attender Survey to be completed by all church attenders aged 16 and over. There are important benefits for church leaders to hear from 16 & 17 year olds about their church experience. It indicates respect for their views and the estimated risks are low. The survey is anonymous and confidential. Please communicate to your child that it is also optional for them.

However, if you do not believe your child aged 16 or 17 years has the capacity to complete the Attender Survey, please indicate this by using the form overleaf.

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, 2016 and 2021. The 2026 NCLS is the eighth wave of the National Church Life Survey.

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.

Declaration by Parent/Guardian

I have read the Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.
I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I indicate my consent (yes or no) for the following child/children to take part in the 2026 National Church Life Survey as follows.

Name of Child	Age Please tick	Consent given Please tick your response
	8-15 yrs 16-17 yrs	Yes No
	8-15 yrs 16-17 yrs	Yes No
	8-15 yrs 16-17 yrs	Yes No
	8-15 yrs 16-17 yrs	Yes No

Name: _____

Signature: _____

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 Presiding Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Integrity Unit, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, Phone: (02) 6933 4213, Email: ethics@csu.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.