

# Church Life Profile

National Church Life Survey 2006  
**South Perth Church Of Christ**



NCLS Code: CA505400  
Denomination: Churches of Christ

*This profile is best read in conjunction with  
the NCLS book "Enriching Church Life –  
A Practical Guide for Local Churches"*

# Making the Most of Your Profile

## STEP 1 REVIEW YOUR PROFILE

Review the information in this Church Life Profile to hear what attenders have said and to assess your strengths.

*Getting Ready*

- 1 Appoint a Review Team**  
We recommend that, if possible, more than one person reviews this Profile.
- 2 Become familiar with 'Enriching Church Life'**  
This book is designed to accompany this Profile. (See book pp 74 to 87)



*To review your Profile...*

- 3 Study your Summary Review (pp4 to 10)**  
The Summary Review pages give a broad picture of your strengths, change over time, attendance, values and hopes.
- 4 Complete Profile Worksheet 1 - Summary Review**  
Profile Worksheet 1 will help you effectively work your way through the Summary Review section of the Profile.
- 5 Report Back**
  - Give copies of this Profile, along with the Reviewers' report, to the leadership team
  - Feedback the information to the congregation.

### Dig Deeper in Your Detailed Review (pp11 to 25):

This section provides further detail on each of the Core Qualities and Attendance Measures.

Profile Worksheet 2 - Detailed Review can help you work your way through this section.

Go to Page 11

*Moving from Reflection to Action*

## STEP 2 CHOOSE A PLANNING OPTION

Once you have reviewed your Church Life Profile, the next step is to develop plans that will assist you to move forward with confidence. Go to Page 26.

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South Perth Church Of Christ, Como, 2006 (CA505400, 352 forms)

# Contents of Your Profile

THIS CHURCH LIFE PROFILE has been especially compiled for your church from the voices of your people, expressed through the 2006 National Church Life Survey.

It provides a snapshot of who your people are; what they value, what they experience, and what some of their hopes and concerns are. We hope that it is a useful tool to help you assess, appreciate and build on the signs of life and strengths in your church.

*The NCLS Research team*

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# Your Strengths

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

Jesus declared, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full".

Church vitality is essentially about the quality of church life. Where is your church most alive? How are people most obviously engaging with Jesus?

NCLS Research has identified 9 Core Qualities and 3 Attendance Measures. Fifteen years of research in Australian and international churches has shown these to be central to the life of a church. No single aspect dictates the effectiveness of a local church's ministry. They all interrelate yet they can all be separately understood and addressed.

The **Internal Core Qualities** focus on the inner life of the community of faith. They are often seen as foundational to church life, providing both shape and energy to the other Core Qualities:

- an alive and growing **Faith**
- vital and nurturing **Worship**
- strong and growing **Belonging**

The **Inspirational Core Qualities** relate to leadership and direction. These qualities are the major catalysts for churches to move forward. These are a hallmark of growing churches:

- a clear and owned **Vision**
- inspiring and empowering **Leadership**
- imaginative and flexible **Innovation**

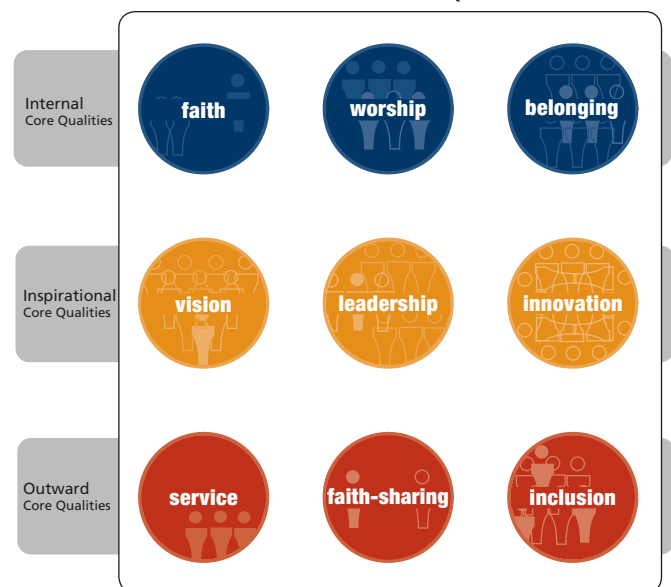
The **Outward Core Qualities** are about how churches focus beyond themselves by reaching out to others in ways that proclaim and live out the Gospel:

- practical and diverse **Service**
- willing and effective **Faith-sharing**
- intentional and welcoming **Inclusion**

The **Attendance Measures** focus on three aspects that take our understanding of attendance beyond just growth and decline:

- **young adult retention**
- **newcomers**
- **attendance change**

Nine Core Qualities of Church Life



Three Church Attendance Measures



© NCLS Research



## Find out more:

See *Enriching Church Life*:

- Explanation of Core Qualities: pp10-29
- Research findings: pp40-51

# Your Strengths

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

South Perth Church Of Christ Churches of Christ, Como

Where is your church most alive? Here are the Core Qualities for your church, based on your church's responses to the National Church Life Survey 2006. They are ranked in order of strength.



## Engaging the Results

1. Are there any surprises here or is it as you would expect?
2. Why do you think the church is stronger in certain areas, and not as strong in other areas?
3. If you could reshuffle these Core Qualities, which ones would you like to see as 'our greatest strength'?

South Perth Church Of Christ, Como, 2006 (CA505400, 352 forms)

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# Change Over Time

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

When churches participate in the National Church Life Survey more than once then the NCLS Research team is able to offer a picture of how the church has changed over time.

You are able to see how the life of your church has changed on page 7.

Carefully discern what the changes might mean. Knowing the history of the church is important here. However, don't jump too quickly to conclusions. Think first, 'what can I learn?' rather than 'what can I explain away?'

## Your Core Qualities Scores: Summary Scores Out of Ten

*These summary scores are the basis for the charts on p5 and p7*

1. Alive and Growing Faith
2. Vital and Nurturing Worship
3. Strong and Growing Belonging
4. Clear and Owned Vision
5. Inspiring and Empowering Leadership
6. Imaginative and Flexible Innovation
7. Practical and Diverse Service
8. Willing and Effective Faith-sharing
9. Intentional and Welcoming Inclusion

**You  
in 2006**

**5.6**

**6.5**

**4.7**

**6.2**

**4.7**

**6.6**

**6.0**

**5.8**

**7.1**

**\* See the footer below on each page to find out which data is presented in this Profile.**

### Where Did the Summary Scores Come From?

There is a page for each Core Quality in the Detailed Review section of this Profile. The summary scores on this page are based on the responses to the first question on each of these detailed pages.

The church's percentages for these questions were converted into a standardised score between 1 and 10. This shows how they compare to the percentages for 4,000 other churches.

A score of 5 is the average for each summary score.

### Do these Results Represent your Church?

Who completed the survey? Are attenders well represented? This may affect the results shown in this Profile.

You in 2006: 600 forms ordered, 352 forms returned.

CoC West in 2006: 3492 forms, 41 churches.

Region in 2001: 2189 forms, 26 churches.

**Regional results** are based on surveys received from congregations/parishes at the date of printing.

### No Results for Change Over Time?

1. NOW - For each Core Quality ask yourself if you think this is an area of your church life that has improved, declined or stayed the same over the past five years? Why?

2. LATER - Any church can conduct a Local Church Life Survey at any time that suits you. The results can then be compared against the NCLS 2006 results.

Contact NCLS Research for details.

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You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)

# Change Over Time

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

South Perth Church Of Christ Churches of Christ, Como

**Change in Core Quality Scores between and 2006 NCLS Surveys**

Change Over Time  
data not available.

## Engaging the Results

1. Are there any surprises here or is it as you would expect?
2. Why do you think these particular changes have occurred since the last survey?
3. In which areas would you hope to see growth the next few years?

You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)

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# Attendance Inflow and Outflow

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

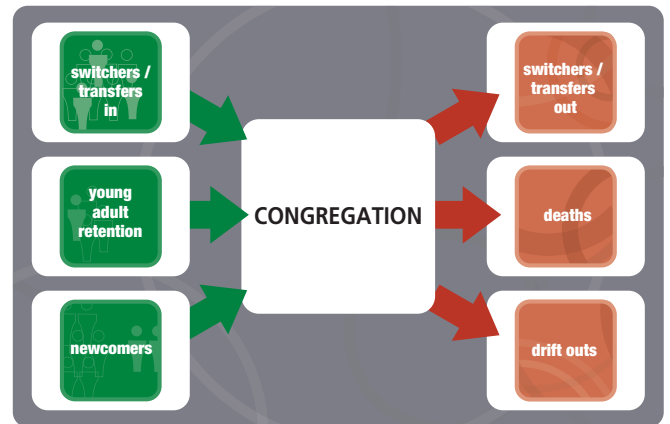
Why do churches grow? This question has a very simple answer. Churches grow when inflow exceeds outflow.

The NCLS Inflow Outflow chart is a graphic presentation of attendance change in terms of three sources of inflow and three sources of outflow.

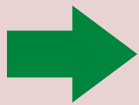
This chart helps churches to understand their main sources of inflow and well as the main destinations of outflow. Such a picture helps a church understand its change in attendance more clearly.

The Survey gives a clear indication of the sources of inflow. Congregational leaders have estimated the change in attendance over the last five years, and through their knowledge of the congregation they can make fair estimates of the outflow.

This chart can be seen as a planning tool helping churches understand where their people have come from, and assessing where those who have left may have gone to.



## What are the Inflow/Outflow components?



**INFLOW** measures the following percentages of the congregation:



*Switchers/Transfers in:* people arriving from local churches of other denominations (switchers) or from churches of the same denomination (transfers) in the last five years.



*Young adult retention:* Young people aged 15+ who were attending this church five years ago.



*Newcomers:* People who were not attending any church five years ago.



**OUTFLOW** estimates the following percentages of the congregation:



*Switchers/Transfers out:* People who have left in the last five years to go to other churches.



*Deaths:* People who have attending in the last five years because of death or infirmity.



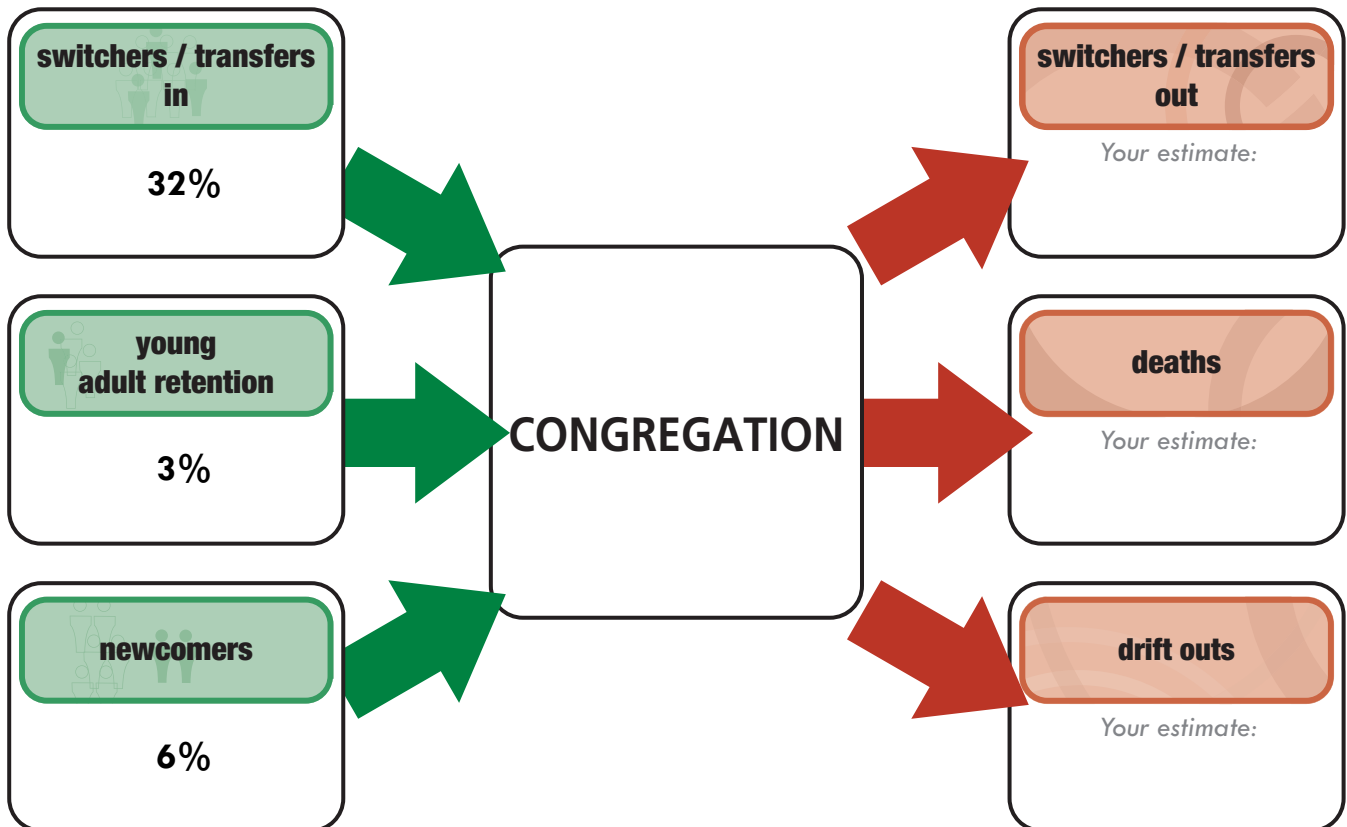
*Drift outs:* People who have left last five years and attend no church.



**ATTENDANCE CHANGE** is the net result of the three inflows and the three outflows on the congregation.



South Perth Church Of Christ Churches of Christ, Como  
**Inflow and Outflow: The Components of Attendance**



### Engaging the Inflow Outflow Chart

1. Looking at the Inflow data, what has been the greatest source of inflow for the church? Why do you think this is so?
2. What church activities and attitudes tend to draw people to the church? What activities and attitudes tend to retain young people as they approach adulthood?
3. Looking at the components of Outflow what do you think is of greatest significance here?
4. Why do you think people have left? Is there any practical action the church can take that might stem the outflow?

**Find out more:**

See 'Enriching Church Life':

\* *Dynamics of Attendance Change*: pp30-37

\* *Research findings*: pp52-55

# What You Value and Hope For

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

The aspects of church that people say they value speak of how the congregation sees itself, and the aspects they hope for speak of what the congregation wishes to become.

## Main survey results relating to what attenders value and hope for

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Aspects of church most valued</b>			
Wider community care or social justice emphasis	33	20	10
Reaching those who do not attend church	18	18	25
Traditional style of worship or music	6	14	14
Contemporary style of worship or music	29	26	38
Sharing in Holy Communion/the Eucharist/Lord's Supper	24	38	33
Social activities or meeting new people	9	13	14
Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching	57	36	45
Bible study or prayer groups, other discussion groups	22	27	28
Ministry to children or youth	33	23	19
Prayer ministry for one another	16	16	14
Practical care for one another in times of need	17	26	21
Openness to social diversity	6	6	7
Presence of a church school or pre-school	3	5	3
<b>Aspects of church that should get more attention</b>			
Small groups focused on Christian growth	20	26	N/A
Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith	31	31	N/A
Building a strong sense of community within the congregation	35	30	N/A
Creating a clear vision for the congregation's future	15	19	N/A
Encouraging the people here to discover/use their gifts here	37	35	N/A
Encouraging new approaches to ministry and mission	13	14	N/A
Supporting social action and aid to people in need	20	16	N/A
Encouraging the people here to share their faith or invite others	22	21	N/A
Ensuring new people are included well in church life	33	30	N/A
Ministry to children and youth	19	22	N/A
Growing into a larger congregation	4	16	N/A
Starting a new church or mission venture	6	5	N/A
<i>Note: Attenders could select up to three options, so percentages may not add to 100%</i>			

## Engaging the Results

1. What aspect of this church do the people of the congregation most value?
2. What areas of this church's life are people saying they want to see more attention given to? Why do you think they chose these areas?
3. Which of the church's existing programs and activities build on what people say they value and what they say they hope for?

# A Detailed Review

DETAILED  
REVIEW

*Dig  
Deeper*

This Detailed Review section will assist those who wish to dig deeper into their results.

There is a separate page for each Core Quality and Attendance Measure plus some additional background on the people of your church.

If you have followed the process outlined on page 2 you will have used Profile Worksheet 1 - Summary Review and selected the Core Qualities or Attendance Measures that you intend to focus on. The detailed review in this section, along with Profile Worksheet 2 - Detailed Review, will assist you to systematically explore these issues.

Think about the best way for you to carry out this phase of digging deeper. It may be the same team that carried out the Summary Review or it may be good to include your full leadership team or church council. You may also want to ask different groups in your church to look at the selected Core Qualities relevant to them.

*Note re data tables:* If "N/A", no data was available for **any** church (e.g. the question was not asked in the previous NCLS Survey).  
If blank, no data was available for **your** church (e.g. not enough forms with that question were filled out from your church).

*We recommend*

To explore these Detailed Review pages you may follow these steps:

**1 Find the Core Quality page you intend to focus on**

Each Core Quality and Attendance Measure has a separate page with more detailed results. Find the page and take an overview of the survey results.

**2 Explore the data as thoroughly as you can**

You will find questions designed to help you engage with the data.

Search the results for signs of strength in the church/parish and ponder how to build on that strength.

Don't shy away from anything that disappoints you in the data, but explore and discuss 'What does this really mean? What is this saying to us? What is this calling us to?'

Ask yourself 'Why are some people saying this, and other people saying that?' Does anyone come to mind when you ponder these responses?

**3 Complete Profile Worksheet 2 - Detailed Review**

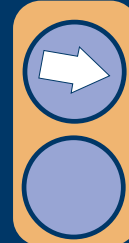
Complete *Profile Worksheet 2* and bring your findings and recommendations to your leadership team.

Repeat these three steps for each issue you intend to focus on.

The role of developing a person's faith is fundamental to church life. Is this church helping attenders grow in their personal walk with God?

There are many elements that contribute to a lively, growing faith. The emphasis here is on the experience and expression of faith, rather than religious beliefs. How important is God to attenders? What are their private devotional practices? Do they believe their faith has grown over the past year?

This core quality at our church



**Ranked 7th of 9**

### Main survey results relating to Core Quality 1: Alive and Growing Faith

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Growth in faith</b>			
<i>Attenders' growth in faith in the past year:</i>			
Much growth through this congregation	29	28	29
Much growth through other churches	11	7	8
Much growth through private activity	11	11	13
Some growth	43	43	42
No growth	6	10	8
<b>Moment of faith commitment</b>			
Always had faith or came to faith through gradual process	32	39	49
One or more specific moments of commitment	67	59	48
<b>Private devotional activity</b>			
<i>Time spent in private prayer, Bible reading, meditation:</i>			
Every day/most days	51	50	49
At least weekly	80	79	81
<b>Importance of God in your life</b>			
The most important reality	72	64	64
More important than most things	22	27	28

### Engaging the Results

1. Taking an overview: What encourages you? What concerns you? What surprises you? Has anything changed? Why do you think the results are like this?
2. Think about those in your congregation who recorded they had grown in faith in the last year and those who recorded they did not. Does anyone come to mind?
3. What has been happening that has helped people to deepen their faith? What more could be done to help people in this?
4. How many attenders spend time in 'private devotional activity'? What steps could be taken to encourage and support people in this?

**Find out more:**

\* Refer to p12 and p42 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)



## 2. Worship Vital and nurturing

DETAILED  
REVIEW

The term “worship” can be used in different ways. Here NCLS is referring to communal worship, such as church services. There is now a broad diversity of worship styles across the churches. This Profile provides measures of vitality found across all types of church service.

What is the impact of this church’s worship on the lives of individual participants? How does it touch them? How helpful and nurturing is it?

This core quality at our church



Ranked 3rd of 9

### Main survey results relating to Core Quality 2: Vital and Nurturing Worship

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>In church attenders always experience</b>			
Inspiration	24	20	19
Joy	24	25	24
Boredom	1	1	1
Awe or mystery	6	6	4
A sense of God's presence	34	33	30
Growth in understanding of God	24	24	23
Challenge to action	19	16	N/A
Being strengthened spiritually	26	26	N/A
<b>The preaching at church is</b>			
Always very helpful	36	28	N/A
Usually very helpful	51	49	N/A
<b>Preferred styles of music at church</b>			
<i>In church attenders prefer:</i>			
Traditional music styles	43	47	41
Contemporary music styles	86	82	88
<small>NOTE: up to two music options could be selected, so percentages may not add to 100%</small>			

### Engaging the Results

1. Take an overview of how attenders experience church. Are some areas more significant than others? Why do you think this is so? Has anything changed?
2. What variation is there in different people’s experience of church here? Is that surprising? Why do people experience it differently?
3. In a year’s time what experience of church would you hope most attenders report? What steps could be taken to work towards this?

**Find out more:**

\* Refer to p14 and p44 of ‘Enriching Church Life’  
\* Use your ‘NCLS Profile Number’ to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)  
CoC West in 2006 - Chs of Christ in SA, WA (CAW00000, 3492 forms, 41 churches)  
Region in 2001 - Churches of Christ WA (C500000, 2189 forms, 26 churches)



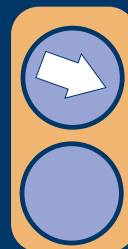
# 3. Belonging Strong and growing

DETAILED  
REVIEW

Churches strive to be a Christian community rather than just a collection of individuals. A sense of belonging among attenders is a measure of satisfaction and confidence in their church.

While this Core Quality can be quite intangible to measure, the concrete activities below can point to whether people have a sense of belonging to a community of faith. NCLS research shows that healthy churches find ways to help people feel they belong.

This core quality at our church



Ranked Equal 3th of

## Main survey results relating to Core Quality 3: Strong and Growing Belonging

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Sense of belonging to the congregation</b>			
Strong and growing	49	54	58
Stable	22	23	17
Weakening	8	9	9
Not a strong sense of belonging	20	12	13
<b>Sense of belonging to the denomination</b>			
Attenders strongly agree they have a strong sense of belonging to the denomination	25	35	N/A
<b>Frequency of church service attendance</b>			
Less than monthly/hardly ever/first time here	6	5	5
Once a month	2	2	1
Two or three times a month	8	8	8
Usually every week	67	70	62
More than once a week	18	16	25
<b>Attendance at group activities</b>			
Attenders regularly go to:			
Small study or prayer groups	44	51	57
Clubs or social groups here	33	40	42

NOTE: attenders may belong to both kinds of groups, so percentages may not add to 100%

## Engaging the Results

1. How strong is the sense of belonging in this congregation? What do you think contributes to this? Has this been changing?
2. Think of those people who say they have weakening or no sense of belonging, how does/might the church respond to them?
3. Who are the 'community builders' in your church? How are they supported and encouraged?

### Find out more:

\* Refer to p16 and p42 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)



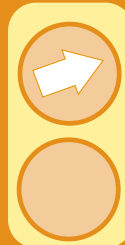
# 4. Vision Clear and owned

DETAILED  
REVIEW

If there is one Core Quality that stands out as making a powerful difference to church vitality, it is the presence of a clear and compelling vision.

While there is no 'magic bullet' for church growth, the ability of churches to develop clear vision or directions to which attenders are strongly committed, is as close as it gets.

This core quality at our church



Ranked 4th of 9

## Main survey results relating to Core Quality 4: Clear and Owned Vision

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Commitment to vision, goals and directions of the church</b>			
<i>About the congregation's vision, goals or directions, attenders are:</i>			
Aware and strongly committed	40	40	43
Aware and partly committed	38	28	24
Aware and not committed	12	10	8
Unaware of any clear vision, goals or directions	11	22	25
<b>Confidence vision can be achieved</b>			
Attenders are fully confident the vision can be achieved	60	50	N/A
Attenders are partly confident the vision can be achieved	24	31	N/A
<b>Leaders focused on future directions</b>			
Attenders strongly agree leaders are focussed on future directions	38	34	N/A
Attenders agree leaders are focussed on future directions	53	49	N/A

## Engaging the Results

1. How many attenders say they are committed to the vision of the church? Has it changed? Is this enough to effectively work towards achieving it?
2. What is the congregation passionate about? Is the vision in harmony with this?
3. What do the results say about how forward looking the congregation is?

### Find out more:

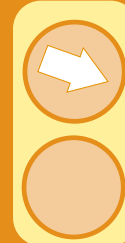
\* Refer to p18 and p46 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)  
CoC West in 2006 - Chs of Christ in SA, WA (CAW00000, 3492 forms, 41 churches)  
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Christian leadership strives to inspire and empower, requiring a balance of moving forward with vision as well as encouraging other peoples' gifts.

Inspiring leaders can move people towards action. Empowering leaders will help people find their place as part of the body of Christ. These leaders offer a sense of direction, inspiring and encouraging people to join together to make a difference.

This core quality at our church



Ranked Equal 3th of

### Main survey results relating to Core Quality 5: Inspiring and Empowering Leadership

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>How leaders are perceived</b>			
<i>Leaders encourage attenders to use their gifts and skills</i>			
To a great extent	25	28	32
To some extent	32	32	36
<i>Leaders take our ideas into account</i>			
To a great extent	41	45	46
To some extent	33	31	29
<i>Attenders agree that leaders here...</i>			
Inspire us to action	75	70	N/A
Keep us strongly focussed on connecting with the wider community	92	84	N/A
Are good at bringing people together to make things happen	79	76	N/A
Set an inspiring example of how to live the Christian life	87	87	N/A
Leaders communicate clearly and openly	83	80	N/A
Help our congregation identify and build on its strengths	83	80	N/A
<b>Congregational systems</b>			
Attenders agree that the congregation has good and clear systems	82	79	N/A

### Engaging the Results

1. How did the congregation record their experience of leaders here? Why do you think this might be so? Does anything surprise you?
2. According to the survey, what are the areas of leadership strength here? What could be done to develop and enhance those strengths?
3. What extra steps can be taken to encourage and develop people for leadership roles here?

**Find out more:**

\* Refer to p20 and p46 of 'Enriching Church Life'

\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)



# 6. Innovation

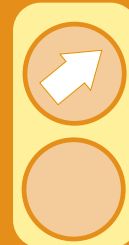
Imaginative and flexible

Innovation is that quality in a church which leads it to be open to new ways and new ideas, especially when moving into new situations or when seeking new outcomes in old situations.

Innovation is not about seeking change for change's sake, but discerning new ways to effectively live and proclaim the gospel in a changing world.

Ultimately, innovation reflects the quality of being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit afresh in our times.

This core quality at our church



**Ranked 2nd of 9**

## Main survey results relating to Core Quality 6: Imaginative and Flexible Innovation

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Willingness of congregation to try new things</b>			
<i>The congregation is always ready to try something new</i>			
Strongly agree	19	18	17
Agree	54	51	51
Neutral or unsure	26	25	24
Disagree	2	6	7
Strongly disagree	0	1	1
<b>Leaders encourage innovation</b>			
Attenders agree that leaders here encourage innovation	80	75	N/A
<b>Openness to change of worship style</b>			
<i>If others who worship here wanted a different style of worship, attenders think the church should</i>			
Change this service to include other styles as well	34	32	N/A
Offer another service with a different worship style	20	17	N/A
Offer the one service with the style that the majority want	10	13	N/A
Continue with the way we currently worship	16	20	N/A
Not sure	20	17	N/A

## Engaging the Results

1. How open does the congregation seem to be to trying new things and new ways? Has this changed?
2. How open to new ways do people think the leadership is? Do you think they got it right? What is the significance of that?
3. How might the leadership further develop and work with the congregation's openness to new ways?

**Find out more:**

\* Refer to p22 and p47 of 'Enriching Church Life'

\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)  
 CoC West in 2006 - Chs of Christ in SA, WA (CAW00000, 3492 forms, 41 churches)  
 Region in 2001 - Churches of Christ WA (C500000, 2189 forms, 26 churches)

Following Jesus involves our heart, heads and hands. For many, acts of goodness, kindness and mercy are part of authentic living out of faith.

This Profile shows some ways that churches serve the wider community. It shows whether attenders are involved in community service, social justice or welfare activities both within and beyond their church. It also reveals some of the informal ways that people help others.

This core quality at our church



**Ranked 5th of 9**

### Main survey results relating to Core Quality 7: Practical and Diverse Service

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Informal ways of helping others (in the last year)</b>			
Lent money outside family	32	30	33
Cared for someone who was very sick	22	27	23
Helped someone through a crisis	54	50	48
Visited someone in hospital	47	53	56
Gave possessions to a needy person	49	45	44
Tried to stop someone abusing alcohol or drugs	22	18	20
Donated money to charity	80	78	74
Contacted an MP or councillor about an issue	14	14	13
Attenders who helped others in three or more of the above ways	65	61	60
<b>Involvement in church-based service activities</b>			
Attenders involved regularly in community service, social justice or welfare activities connected to this congregation	27	28	22
<b>Involvement in community-based service activities</b>			
Community service, care or welfare groups	15	21	20
Social action, justice or lobby groups	5	5	5
Sport, recreation or hobby groups	22	23	N/A
School or youth groups (eg P&C, scouts)	12	12	N/A
Another kind of group	8	9	N/A

*Note: Attenders could chose multiple responses, so results may not add up to 100%*

### Engaging the Results

1. What do these results suggest to you about attender's involvement in service? Is this encouraging or disappointing? Why do you think the results are like this?
2. What percentage of the attenders are involved in church-based service activities? Who comes to mind? How could these activities be further encouraged and developed?
3. What do the results on informal helping suggest to you? Are there some attenders who do most of this in your congregation? Are there opportunities for others to do this sort of service through church structures? How might this be encouraged?

**Find out more:**  
 \* Refer to p24 and p50 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
 \* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online  
 - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

Those who follow Christ need to find the words, confidence and commitment to share their faith with friends and tell stories of why the Christian faith is alive.

Confidence in the church as a place of support, nurture and comfort is also important. Most often people are introduced to faith, make a commitment and grow in faith within a congregational setting.

This core quality at our church



Ranked 6th of 9

## Main survey results relating to Core Quality 8: Willing and Effect Faith Sharing

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Inviting others to church</b>			
<i>Attenders' willingness to invite others to church:</i>			
Invited someone in the last 12 months	47	41	48
Willing, but didn't invite someone	37	39	37
Probably or definitely wouldn't invite someone	6	10	7
Don't know	10	10	8
<b>Involvement in evangelistic or outreach activities</b>			
Attenders involved regularly in outreach or evangelistic activity	26	30	29
<b>Readiness to share faith with others</b>			
Attenders who look for opportunities to share their faith	18	18	21
<b>Aspects of church most valued – outreach</b>			
Attenders who most value outreach as an aspect of their congregation's life	18	18	25
<b>Discussing matters of faith at home</b>			
Attenders who frequently discuss faith at home	60	56	59

## Engaging the Results

1. What do these results suggest to you about faith-sharing in the congregation? Is this encouraging or disappointing? Why do you think the results are like this? Has it changed?
2. Do the results show a culture of inviting others to church here? Why do you think this is so? Is this something that could be further developed?
3. Do the results show that people are comfortable in discussing their faith with others? Why do you think that is so? Is that something that could be developed?

### Find out more:

\* Refer to p26 and p48 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
 \* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

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# 9. Inclusion

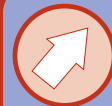
Intentional and welcoming

DETAILED REVIEW

Inclusion involves intentionally seeking out new people or people who may be on the margins and including them in the life of the church.

It involves being truly welcoming to all people regardless of their background. And if someone begins to drift away there will always be some who notice and reach out a hand in friendship.

This core quality at our church



Ranked 1st of 9

## Main survey results relating to Core Quality 9: Intentional and Welcoming Inclusion

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Likelihood of attenders to follow up someone drifting from church</b>			
Certain	15	13	10
Very likely or likely	54	54	51
Hard to say	27	27	33
Unlikely	4	6	6
<b>Attenders involvement in welcoming new people</b>			
Are part of the formal welcoming system	14	18	N/A
Not part of the formal welcoming system	73	66	N/A
No formal system, but attenders who seek to make new arrivals welcome	3	6	N/A
No system/no involvement	10	10	N/A
<b>Attenders agree they have found it easy to make friends here</b>			
All attenders	65	80	N/A
Those who have arrived in the last five years	59	77	N/A

## Engaging the Results

1. What do the survey results in this area suggest about the church community?
2. What do the results show about following up those drifting away? Why do you think this is so? Why do you think people might have drifted away from here?
3. Overall, how friendly do these results show the church to be? How friendly is it for new arrivals? What factors do you think are influencing this?

### Find out more:

\* Refer to p26 and p48 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
 \* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

There are important challenges for churches to meaningfully engage young people with the gospel, to be relevant to them as a Christian community and to be truly open to the fresh energy and insights they bring. Here are several measures relating to young people at your church.

“Young people (15-19) who have been attending 5 years or more” tracks young people who have grown up in this church. “Young people who have been attending less than 5 years” are those who are new to this church. There are also details of attendance patterns and satisfaction with activities offered.

## Main survey results relating to Young Adult Retention

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Young People (aged 15-19) at your church:</b>			
Young people who have been attending 5 years or more	3	3	3
Young people who have been attending less than 5 years	3	3	4
<b>Church attendance pattern of attenders' children:</b>			
Aged 0-14			
Still attend this church	89	89	90
Attend elsewhere	6	5	3
Do not attend any church	7	7	5
Aged 15 and over			
Still attend this church	57	51	51
Attend elsewhere	9	13	14
Do not attend any church	35	35	34
<b>Satisfaction with what is offered here for young people:</b>			
All attenders satisfied with what is offered here for:			
Children under 12 years	78	72	69
Youth aged 12-18 years	64	59	54
Young adults	51	45	45
15-18 year old attenders satisfied with activities offered	53	73	75
19-25 year old attenders satisfied with activities offered	31	50	61
Note: All child attendance options could be selected, so percentage may not add up to 100%			

## Engaging the Results

1. How many of the church's attenders are young people? How many of them are satisfied with the activities the church offers?
2. How do young people make a difference to the life of this church?
3. What opportunities and challenges does all this present to the mission and ministry of this church?

### Find out more:

\* Refer to p36 and p55 of 'Enriching Church Life'

You in 2006 - South Perth Church Of Christ, Como (CA505400, 352 forms)  
CoC West in 2006 - Chs of Christ in SA, WA (CAW00000, 3492 forms, 41 churches)  
Region in 2001 - Churches of Christ WA (C500000, 2189 forms, 26 churches)

Newcomers without a recent church background can keep a congregation dynamic and engaged. They represent effective connections between church and the wider community.

Drawing people into a community of faith is important for reasons other than making congregations larger. It is harder for the Christian faith to be fostered outside a supportive Christian community.

### Main survey results relating to Newcomers

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Newcomers to church</b>			
Newcomers returning after a long absence	3	5	7
Newcomers who never regularly attended	3	2	5
Total Newcomers	6	8	13
<b>Church attendance history</b>			
Switchers from another denomination	24	22	26
Transfers from same denomination	8	7	11
Attended here for more than 5 years	59	60	47
Visitors from other churches	2	2	2
Visitors who do not regularly go to church	2	1	1
<b>Length of attendance (in this congregation)</b>			
Less than 1 year	14	10	16
1-2 years	10	12	14
3-5 years	15	16	21
6-10 years	19	16	19
11-20 years	24	19	13
More than 20 years	13	24	14

### Engaging the Results

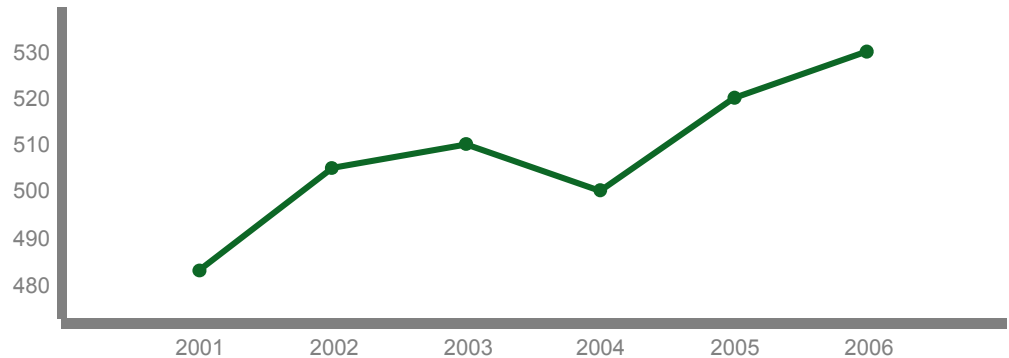
1. What percentage of attenders arrived in the last five years? What is the significance of this for the churches' mission and ministry?
2. What do you do to attract newcomers? How could this be built on?
3. How are newcomers encouraged to make a difference to the life of the church?

#### Find out more:

\* Refer to p37 and p52 of 'Enriching Church Life'  
\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

Here is the pattern of attendance change for your church over recent years.

It is based on estimates supplied by local church leaders.



Overall change in the last five years: **9% Growth**

Changes in average attendance may be the result of people entering or leaving the congregation, or attenders changing their frequency of attendance. It could be the result of internal church dynamics, or an outcome of the wider community's relationship with the church. Social and demographic changes over time in the church's locale can also affect attendance.

### Engaging the Results

Do you see any links between the changes over time shown on page 7 of the Church Life Profile and your church's attendance trends?

Look at *Enriching Church Life* pages 52 to 55 for some strategies that may assist in fostering growth.

#### **If attendance is growing:**

1. What are the main sources of growth here? Why?
2. How are new arrivals helped to connect and participate at this church?
3. What impact is this growth having on long time attenders?

#### **If attendance is stable:**

1. How is this a gospel community to which others will want to belong?
2. What activities are sources of energy in the life of this church?
3. How can you build on strengths of your church to bring greater life to other areas?

#### **If attendance is declining:**

1. Are changes in your local community affecting attendance?
2. How might the church's resources and energy be used differently?
3. Should the church's vision and goals be reviewed?

#### **Find out more:**

\* Refer to p30 and p34 of 'Enriching Church Life'

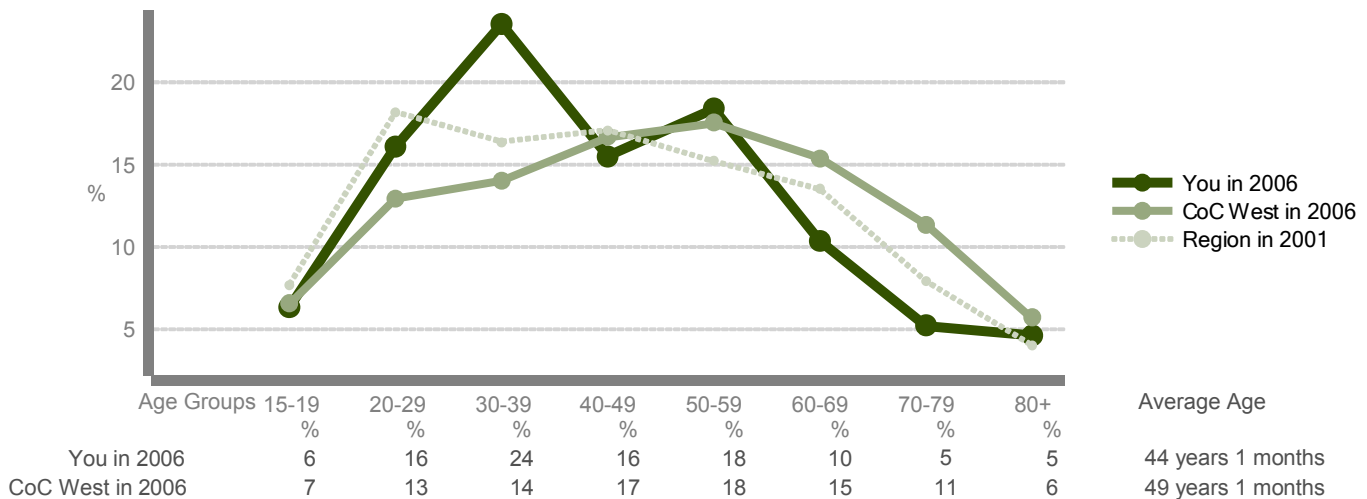
\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

# The People of Your Church

DETAILED  
REVIEW

Each church is a community of people from many different backgrounds and circumstances. Looking at who goes to church also reveals the extent to which we are connecting with the many elements of Australian society.

## Adult Age Profile (15+ years)



## Main survey results relating to the demographics of your people

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	57	59	59
Male	43	41	41
<b>Marital status</b>			
Never married	24	18	24
In first marriage	60	60	55
Remarried	5	8	8
In a defacto relationship	1	1	1
Separated or divorced	7	7	6
Widowed	4	7	5
<b>Highest educational qualification</b>			
Primary/secondary school	34	47	49
Trade certificate, diploma or associate diploma	23	27	27
University degree	42	26	24
<b>Employment status</b>			
Employed	63	55	54
Full-time home duties/family responsibilities	12	13	16
Unemployed	3	3	3
Retired	15	25	20
<b>Country of birth (if not Australia)</b>			
Born in English-speaking country	17	15	17
Born in Non English-speaking country	16	9	11

Note: Multiple employment options could be selected, so percentage may not add up to 100%



# The People of Your Church

DETAILED  
REVIEW

There are varying ways people are involved in church life. While most attend church services, their regularity may vary over time. Some are more involved through group activities at church, while others have a role in leadership and ministry.

## Main survey results relating to how your people are involved at this church

	You in 2006 %	CoC West in 2006 %	Region in 2001 %
<b>Change of frequency of church service attendance</b>			
More frequently than 12 months ago	31	25	N/A
Less frequently than 12 months ago	7	7	N/A
About the same frequency as 12 months ago	62	69	N/A
<b>Roles at church</b>			
Involved in leadership, ministry and administration roles here	46	53	55
<b>Groups</b>			
Involved in small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups at this church	44	51	57
Involved in fellowships, clubs, social or other groups at this church	33	40	42
<b>Length of journey to church</b>			
1-5 minutes	18	26	25
6-10 minutes	36	36	36
11-20 minutes	35	29	31
More than 20 minutes	11	9	9
<b>Financial giving</b>			
Regularly give 10% or more of net income	44	39	40
Regularly give up to 9% of net income	34	38	38
Give a small amount whenever I am here	16	16	15
Do not contribute financially to our congregation	5	6	6

## Engaging the Results

1. What for you is the most striking feature of this information about the people of this church? What does this say to you?
2. Do you think the make up of the attenders (age, ethnicity, etc.) is similar to the make up of the wider community in this area? What implications does this have?
3. How are people involved in your congregation and how does that affect your church life?

### Find out more:

\* Use your 'NCLS Profile Number' to see your full profile online - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

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25

# Choose a Planning Option

PLANNING  
OPTIONS

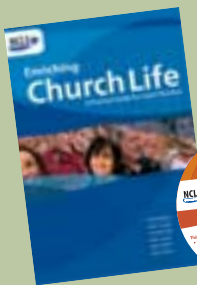
*Have you completed  
your review?*

## STEP 1 REVIEW YOUR PROFILE

Having reviewed your Church Life Profile, the next step is to move from reflection to action.

Then, are you ready to move from reflection to action?

## STEP 2 CHOOSE A PLANNING OPTION



Choose from these options to develop plans that will assist you to move forward with confidence.

Refer to the *Enriching Church Life* book and DVD for resources.

### OPTION 2

#### Reflection/Action Planning Process

For churches to move directly from their NCLS Profiles to steps for action.

Two sessions of 2-3 hours each.

For churches that have recently completed a planning process, are already pursuing a vision or are not able to begin a long planning process right now.

Refer to *Enriching Church Life* pages 94 to 101

### OPTION 1

#### Short Planning Session

An introduction to the Church Life Profile suitable for any church.

A single two-hour session.

It is designed to encourage all attenders to reflect on the strengths they bring to ministry. We invite all churches to do this session.

Go to next page

### OPTION 3

#### Comprehensive Planning Process

For churches keen to develop a vision for the future and to develop action steps needed to bring this vision to reality.

Four to six sessions.

This process can help churches to rediscover their sense of purpose, to dream dreams, to cast a vision and to passionately pursue the vision to its fulfilment.

Refer to *Enriching Church Life* pages 102 to 129

### Using NCLS with Other Planning Resources:

If your church already uses another planning process, the NCLS Profile can enhance that process. It provides an evaluation tool that complements the planning processes found in other resources.

Refer to *Enriching Church Life* pages 130 to 133

## A Short Planning Session for Congregations

(1½ - 2 hours):

This brief planning session is designed to help the **whole** church engage the *Church Life Profile* and build on their strengths. It is a single session of 1½ - 2 hours.

This process does not require an outside facilitator and may be led by the minister/pastor or other members of the planning team.

For more detail refer to pages 92-93 of *Enriching Church Life*.

1. **Pray.** Choose a reading, reflection, song or prayer that is appropriate for the congregation.
2. **Present the *Church Life Profile*** and explain the nine Core Qualities.  
See introductory PowerPoint on *Enriching Church Life* DVD or download from website - [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)
3. **Nominate one Core Quality.** NCLS recommends beginning with one of the strongest Qualities (page 5 of this Profile) or one of the Qualities that has shown significant growth over time (page 7).
4. **Break into pairs or small groups** and share a story of when this area of church life has been life-giving for you. What were the factors that made it so?
5. **Come back to the large group and report your findings** on the factors that have made this area life-giving. The facilitator writes them up, linking common factors, which may be important sources of life for the congregation.
6. **Work out some practical next steps** to build on this strength, either by developing this particular area or by using this strength to remove barriers in an area not as strong in church life. Don't try to do too much, just name one or two next steps to further the life of the church and outline who is going to do what over the next couple of months.
7. **Arrange another gathering** to hear how the implementation has gone, and perhaps to repeat this process with another Core Quality.



## Local Church Life Surveys

Want to Update your Church Life Profile?  
You Choose When.

You can order a follow-up Local Church Life Survey at a time that suits your church.

This practical evaluation tool is useful to:

- conduct regular reviews
- check your health and vitality
- assess the impact of plans that have been put into place
- take stock of major changes eg change of service times, new church plant
- provide up-to-date information to new church leaders.

Features include:

- very fast return of results.
- updated 28 page Church Life Profile
- online results
- compare with your church's previous results
- customisable comparisons
- available as often as you want

*A practical tool to regularly assess your core qualities and build on your strengths*



Contact NCLS Research for more info.

E. [info@ncls.org.au](mailto:info@ncls.org.au)

P. (02) 8267 4394

F. (02) 9267 7316

PO Box A2178

Sydney South NSW 1235

[www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

### Your church results online

[www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au)

This Church Life Profile can be viewed on the NCLS website.

Follow the links related to Church Life Profiles. After registering yourself, you will need the Profile Number shown below.

**GQALUH**

At any time NCLS Research reserves the right to remove viewing access to any Church Life Profile.

### [www.churchsearch.org.au](http://www.churchsearch.org.au)

Church Search is Australia's most comprehensive online directory of churches.

- Free and easy to use
- Over 12,000 churches
- Over 40 denominations



Moving or travelling?

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Interested in the life of the Australian church?

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