

The National Church Life Survey 2021 - An invitation to the Boronia Park Uniting Church family

Good morning everyone,

I hope you are all in good spirits and keeping as well as possible.

An important request for each of you:

- On behalf of our Church Council, I'd like to give you some important information about an invitation we hope everyone will take up during the week **starting Sunday 13 February 2022**. This information will also be on our website.
- The invitation (actually a task) is to fill in a survey – either online or in hard copy- for the Australian **National Church Life Survey (NCLS)**. Because of Covid, the Survey has been postponed from late last year to now.
- The Australian NCLS is the largest longitudinal study of church life in the world.
- The theme of this Survey is **Focused on the Future**.
- The **time taken to complete the Attender Survey** which is the one most of us will do is approximately **20-30 minutes**.
- For each survey question, you'll be asked to fill in a box - no written responses are needed.
- All surveys, online or hard copy, are **confidential**.

Why are we asked to do the survey now?

1. I mentioned last year that the National Church Life Survey is conducted every five years and in the same year as Australia's national Census.
2. Due to Covid, this was not possible and so we are being asked to complete the NCLS Survey in February 2022.
3. **Boronia Park Uniting Church has chosen to make Feb 13-21 our Survey Week Blitz when we all focus on this task.**

How do I complete the NCLS Survey?

- **While it's now normal practice to do surveys on-line**, we know some of us will be more comfortable with a hard copy and so your Elders have contacted a number of members to check the way they would like to complete the survey.
- If your Church Elder has not yet contacted you and you would like a hard copy, please let your Elder know asap in the next week ie from 6 February, so we can arrange delivery of a Survey to your home address.
- **Hard copies will be delivered to your letterbox in the coming week starting Tuesday 8 February.**
- An envelope with **NCLS-Boronia Park UC on the front will be provided with the hard copy** so you can seal your survey in the envelope and place in your own letterbox for us to collect on Monday 21 February. **Alternatively, you can post it but no later than Wednesday 23 February to PO Box 3238, Putney NSW 2112.** For those whose letterbox is not accessible to non-residents, separate arrangements will be made **with you** to collect your sealed envelope.
- **If you have any queries, please contact Robyn Harvey, our BP NCLS Survey Coordinator on telephone 0418 783 290 or email robyn.49@bigpond.net.au**

What does the survey look like? A sample of the *Survey for Attenders* is on this website: [NCLS Research - Survey options \(2021ncls.org.au\)](https://www.ncls.org.au)

I'm really keen! Can I start or do the whole the survey before 13 February?

- **Yes, if you're aged 15+** you can complete the Attender Survey online from now on. You don't have to wait until the week starting 13 February. Please go to: attendersurvey.ncls.org.au
Note: The Survey is available in several other languages including Chinese and Korean.
- You'll need the code for our church which is **UA1D4602** Boronia Park Uniting Church Gladesville
[Note the third numeral is 1.]
- The [Parent Information Sheet](#) is also available for younger members doing the Attender Survey.

Can young people under 15 years fill in a survey?

- **Yes, if you are aged 8-14 years**, there is a separate NCLS survey for younger people.
- Parents and carers should review [the Parent Information Sheet](#)
- Our young ones attending church aged 8 to 14 are really welcome to complete the Child Survey at childsurvey.ncls.org.au
- You can start your survey now before Sunday 13 February but check in first with your parent/s.
- The code for Boronia Park Uniting Church is the same as above ie **UA1D4602**

Are there other surveys as part of the NCLS?

- Yes, members of our church who are in nominated leadership roles eg Elders, Chair of the Church Congregation, are asked to complete a longer **Leader Survey** and I also have a **Census Form** to complete on behalf of our Church.
- For samples of the surveys and information about how the various surveys interconnect and their purposes, see

[NCLS Research - Survey options \(2021ncls.org.au\)](#)

Note that we are not using the NCLS Community Survey.

What other churches are completing the Survey?

- Over 3,000 churches from more than 20 denominations in Australia are participating this year.

Who put the Survey together?

- NCLS Research prepared the Survey, including the questions. They are a world leader in research focused on connecting churches and their communities. Their research includes wellbeing, leadership, spirituality and church health.

NCLS Research staff are supported by sponsoring agencies including:

- ANGLICARE (Sydney),
- Uniting Mission and Education, and Uniting, (NSW & the ACT),
- Baptistcare NSW/ACT

Why is this NCLS Survey important?

- Put simply, it's a health and vitality check and because we are all asked to respond, it's asking for everyone's voice to be heard. So it's very important.
- It's also important to our local Boronia Park Uniting Church because we will receive a report based on our own responses to the Survey. Our report will be unique to us. It will help us understand how we are travelling as a church; what we are doing well; and what things we might also consider.
- We will share the findings of that report with you once received in 2022.
- It's important to the wider Church so that we have an up-to-date on how 'the church' is travelling; what are some new directions and what are some areas that need more focus and attention.

Will Boronia Park UC leaders know if we've completed the Survey online?

- Our NCLS Coordinator, Robyn Harvey can log in to the Survey to see how many online surveys have been completed by our church- not who has submitted a survey.

So what are our next steps in the week ahead?

1. Have we let our Elder know if we need a hard copy/ in another language?
2. Have we decided when we will start the survey? Now or from 13 Feb?
3. When will we actually do it? Is it in my calendar?
4. What is our own personal completion date for the survey? Latest date is Sunday 20 February.

On behalf of the Church Council, thank you in advance for your enthusiastic response to completing the NCLS Survey 2021! And on time!

We really look forward to receiving the Survey results in a few months' time so we can use all our voices to help plan for the future here at Boronia Park Uniting Church.

Rosemary Brook
Chair, Church Council
Boronia Park Uniting Church
6 February 2021

KEY DATES

6 Feb- Information on BPUC website about how and why we should all complete the NCLS Survey

6 Feb onwards – You may start and submit the online NCLS survey (Attender/Child Survey/and for leaders, the Leader Survey)

8 Feb- Hard copy version of the Attender Survey and return envelope delivered to those who have requested a hard copy

13-20- Official Boronia Park UC NCLS Survey Week Blitz

Sunday 20 February- Hurrah! Everyone has finished their survey and submitted it online or placed it in their return envelope!!

21 Feb – Hard copies will be collected from your personal letter box and arrangements made with you if your letter box is not accessible to non-residents

23 Feb- Last date if you prefer to post your hard copy to PO Box 3238, Putney NSW 2112.