

Inviting People to Church

Inviting People To Church

The most common way in which people join religious groups is because friends and relatives invite them. Two-thirds of Australian Protestant newcomers first joined their church through someone inviting them (*Enriching Church Life*, p.26, 52).

In the 2006 NCLS church attenders were asked:

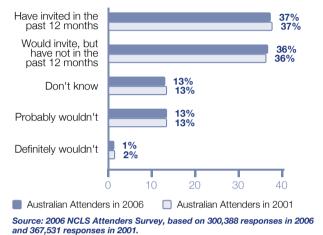
Q. Would you be prepared to invite to a church service here any of your friends and relatives who do not currently attend a church?

- Yes, and I have done so in the past 12 months
- Yes, but I have not done so in the past 12 months
- Don't know
- No, probably not
- No definitely not

Inviting people to church:

- 73% of church attenders were open to inviting someone
- 36% have invited someone in last 12 months. Additional
- 36% willing to invite someone but hadn't.
- 14% of church attenders probably or definitely would not invite someone
- 13% said they did not know if they would be prepared to invite someone
- Pentecostal groups have highest percentage of attenders inviting others (59%). Salvation Army also high (47%).
- New arrivals to church more likely than long-term attenders to invite others
- Switchers (those who have changed denominations) are particularly strong inviters (49%) as are newcomers (those new to church life or returned after a long absence), 44% of whom have invited in the last year.





NCLS Research

p. +61 2 8267 4394 f. +61 2 9267 7316 NCLS Research Fact Sheet • Inviting People To Church Catalogue Number 01.09.12.03 © Copyright 2009 NCLS Research



Reasons people don't invite others to church:

- lack of connection with people outside church life
- belief that 'Those I could invite may not be interested', (selected by 20% of Protestant church attenders).
- belief that 'Those I could invite may not like the style of worship here' and 'Lack of confidence in talking about my faith' (both 11%).

Table 1: Reasons given by All Australian Attenders church attenders for not inviting others.	
What most discourages you from inviting people to this congregation/parish? (Mark up to TWO)	All NCLS in 2006 %
I do not see the need to do so I don't know many people from outside church My friends and contacts live too far away Lack of confidence in talking about my faith Fear of rejection/damaging relationships They may not like the style of worship here They may not be made to feel welcome here They may not be interested Other Don't know	10 10 10 7 9 3 19 6 9
Source: NCLS Attenders Survey I, based on 8,835 responses. Responses for 'I'm generally happy to invite' are not shown.	

Authors

Sam Sterland, Ruth Powell, Michael Pippett and the NCLS Research team.

References

This fact sheet is based on *Occasional Paper 13: Community Connections: Faith Sharing*. For references and further information on data sources, access the presentation at www.ncls.org.au.

See also NCLS Research Fact Sheet 2: A Profile of People Who Share Faith.

NCLS Research

p. +61 2 8267 4394 f. +61 2 9267 7316 w. www.ncls.org.au e. info@ncls.org.au NCLS Research Fact Sheet • Inviting People To Church Catalogue Number 01.09.12.03 © Copyright 2009 NCLS Research