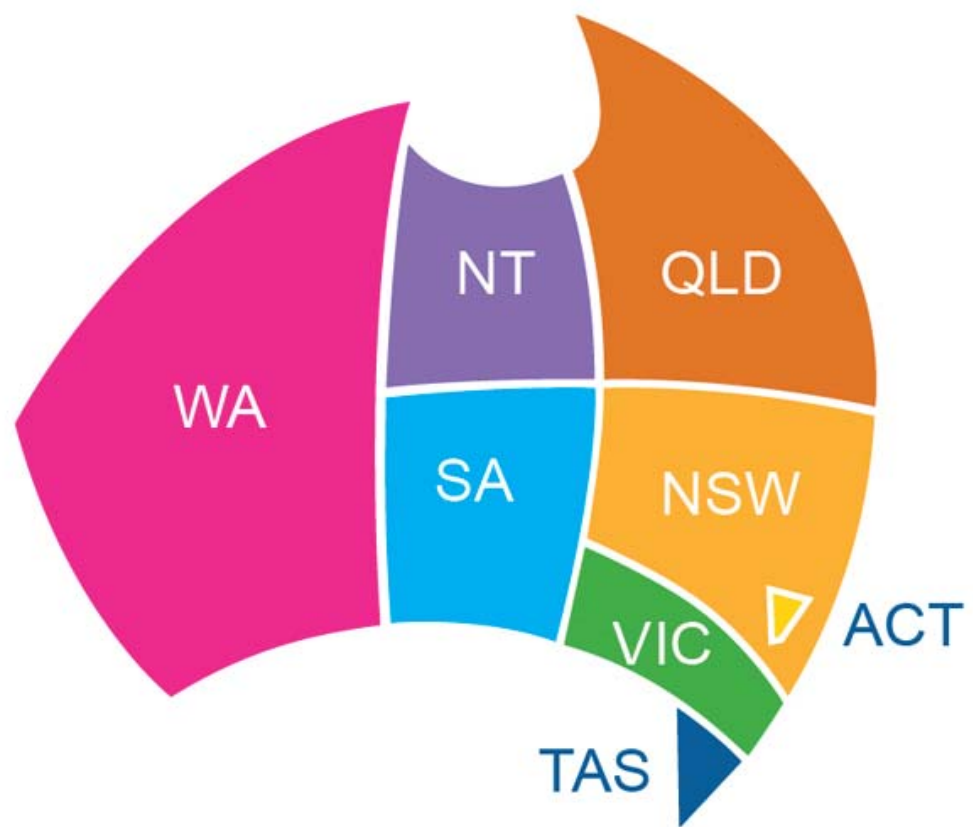


2013 survey of non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia



October
2014

Southern Pacific Christian Research
in association with Klesis Institute

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Survey Highlights

The 2013 survey

- The 2013 survey is the tenth in a series of surveys of non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia. The first survey was undertaken in 1984. For details on the background of the survey over the years, as well as the survey participants and survey methodology for 2013, see Appendix A.
- This latest survey of was initiated in December 2013 with a mailout of requests for information. Survey responses were received in the first half of 2014. These responses provide information on members, attendance and baptisms of churches as at October 2013.
- This report provides some of the highlights of the survey findings.

Survey highlights

- The results for the 2013 survey are not as positive as those for the 2010 survey.
- The encouraging growth between 2006-10 was not repeated in 2010-13. This could be seen as 'two steps forward and one step back'.
- There was a drop of -0.8% in members and -2.3% in average attendance since the 2010 survey.
- The number of churches whose data are included in the survey increased by 2.6%.
- The number of baptisms grew by 10%. There is a contrast in the statistics between the increase in the number of baptisms and the decline in members. One possible conclusion is that churches are losing more people (through deaths, falling away, moving overseas, etc) than they are adding through baptisms.
- Over the period of the last three surveys (2006, 2010 and 2013), members have increased by 6.4% and average attendance by 5.9%.
- In terms of average size of congregations, non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia appear to be a 'micro church' movement (ie. with 3-34 persons for Sunday attendance). The majority of our congregations are small in size, with over 90% with less than 75 in attendance and nearly 62.9% with less than 35 in attendance.
- There are 8 congregations under the 'medium church' category (ie. with 75-199 persons for Sunday attendance), of which 4 congregations have over 100 for Sunday attendance. These 8 congregations have an aggregate Sunday attendance of 867 people (37.1% of total attendance nationally).
- The number of baptisms fell significantly in NSW while the State also saw the largest fall in the number of members in the 2013 survey. Churches in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia have seen encouraging growth since 2006.

The Big Picture: Churches, Members and Attendance

The basic facts

- Eighty churches were included in the survey (Table 1).
- The total estimated number of members of these churches was 1,941.
- The average Sunday attendance was 2,338.
- The average size of churches, in terms of the number of members, is 24.3 while 29.2 is the average attendance for Sunday assemblies.
- There were 99 baptisms reported over the previous twelve months from October 2012 – October 2013.

Table 1. Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Churches, Members, Average Attendance and Baptisms

<i>Baptised Members</i>	1,941
<i>Average Attendance</i>	2,338
<i>Churches</i>	80
<i>Baptisms in preceding 12 months</i>	99

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Growth: 2006 to 2013

The picture over the last three surveys

- There has been modest growth between the 2006 and 2013 surveys (Tables 2 and 3; Figure 1).
- The number of members has grown from 1,825 in 2006 to 1,941 in 2013 (6.4%).
- Sunday average attendance has increased from 2,208 to 2,338 (5.9%).

- The number of congregations whose data are included in the survey increased from 73 in 2006 to 80 in 2013 (9.6%).¹
- However, the number of members and the average Sunday attendance peaked in 2010.

Table 2. Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – Churches, Members and Attendance

	2006	2010	2013
Members	1,825	1,956	1,941
Attendance	2,208	2,394	2,338
Churches	73	78	80
Ave Size (Members)	25.0	25.1	24.3
Ave Size (Attendance)	30.2	30.7	29.2

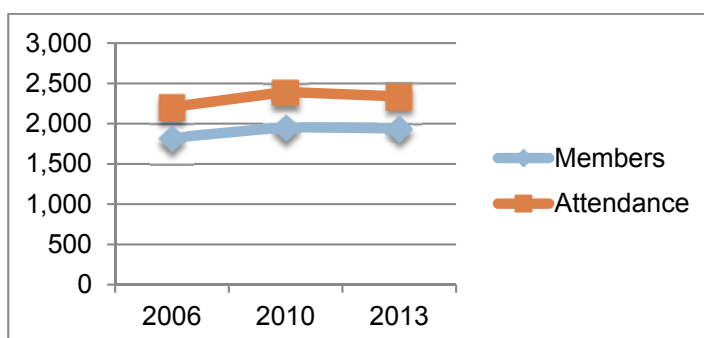
Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Table 3. Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – % Growth in Churches, Members & Attendance

	% Change		
	2006 to 2010	2010 to 2013	2006 to 2013
Members	7.2	-0.8	6.4
Attendance	8.4	-2.3	5.9
Churches	9.6	2.6	9.6

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 1. Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – Members and Attendance



Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

¹ The 2013 Survey included two existing churches whose data were not included in surveys of previous years. See: 'Who participates in the surveys' in Appendix A: About the Survey, p 23.

States and Territories Compared

Strongest states

- The majority of churches and members are to be found in New South Wales/ACT and Queensland (Tables 4 and 5; Figure 2). Together they have 65.0% of the churches, 59.4% of members and 60.1% of the total Sunday attendance.
- Queensland has 30.6% and New South Wales/ACT 28.8% of the total Australian membership.
- Queensland has a larger number of churches (30 as compared to 22 in NSW/ACT) and a higher Sunday attendance (738 compared to 667 in NSW/ACT).

Other states

- Victoria and Western Australia are the next two strongest states with 17.5% of the congregations in Australia and 30.2% of the members.
- Tasmania and South Australia together have the remaining 17.5% of the churches and 10.4% of the members.

Table 4. Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Churches, Members and Attendance by State

State	Churches	Members	Sunday Attendance
NSW/ACT	22	559	667
Queensland	30	593	738
Victoria	10	276	349
South Australia/NT	6	90	118
Western Australia	4	310	331
Tasmania	8	113	135
Total Australia	80	1,941	2,338

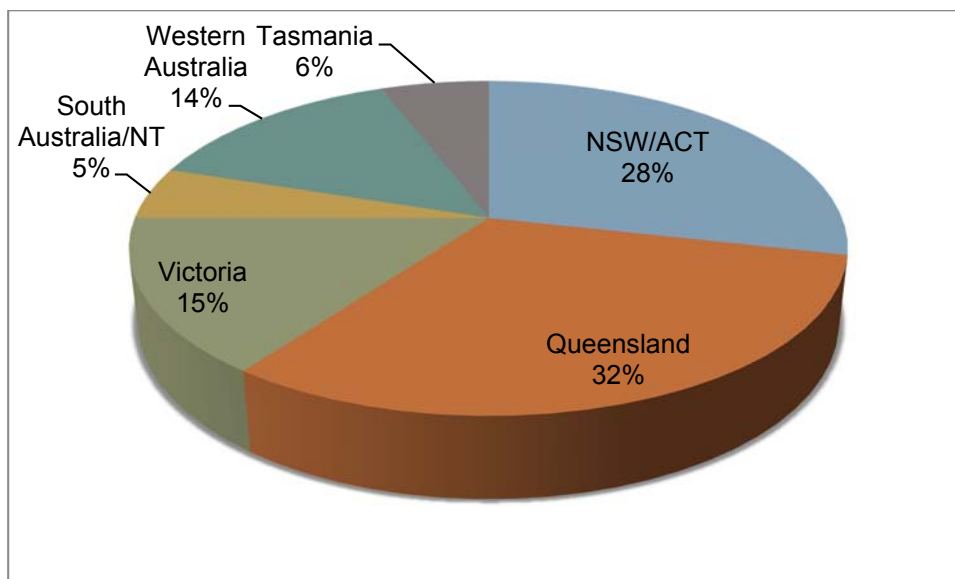
Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Table 5. Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Percentage Churches, Members and Attendance by State

State	Percentage Churches	Percentage Members	Percentage Sunday Attendance
NSW/ACT	27.5	28.8	28.5
Queensland	37.5	30.6	31.6
Victoria	12.5	14.2	14.9
South Australia/NT	7.5	4.6	5.0
Western Australia	5.0	16.0	14.2
Tasmania	10.0	5.8	5.8
Total Australia	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 2. Churches of Christ in Australia – Percentage of Sunday Attendance by State



Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

State-by-State Round-up: Growth 2006 to 2013

Overview

- Growth in the number of churches during the period covered by the last three surveys was greatest in Queensland with growth from 24 to 30 (Table 6).² Small increases were seen in NSW/ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia/Northern Territory. The number of churches decreased in Western Australia.
- Significant growth in members was seen in Victoria (24.3%), Western Australia (25.0%) and Queensland (7.4%) (Table 7; Figure 3). Declines were seen in NSW/ACT (-4.0%) South Australia/NT (-8.2%) and Tasmania (-18.7%).
- Strong growth in average attendance was seen in Victoria (29.7%), Western Australia (25.9%) and to a lesser extent SA/NT (12.4%), Queensland (6.5%) and NSW (4.2%) (Table 8; Figure 4). Attendances declined in Tasmania (-20.6%).
- Queensland now is the strongest state in terms of the numbers of churches, members and average Sunday attendance.

Table 6: Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013: Churches by State

State	Churches			% Growth 2006-2013
	2006	2010	2013	
NSW/ACT	20	22	22	10.0
Queensland	24	27	30	25.0
Victoria	9	9	10	11.1
South Australia/NT	5	5	6	20.0
Western Australia	7	6	4	-42.9
Tasmania	8	9	8	0.0
Total Australia	73	78	80	9.6

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

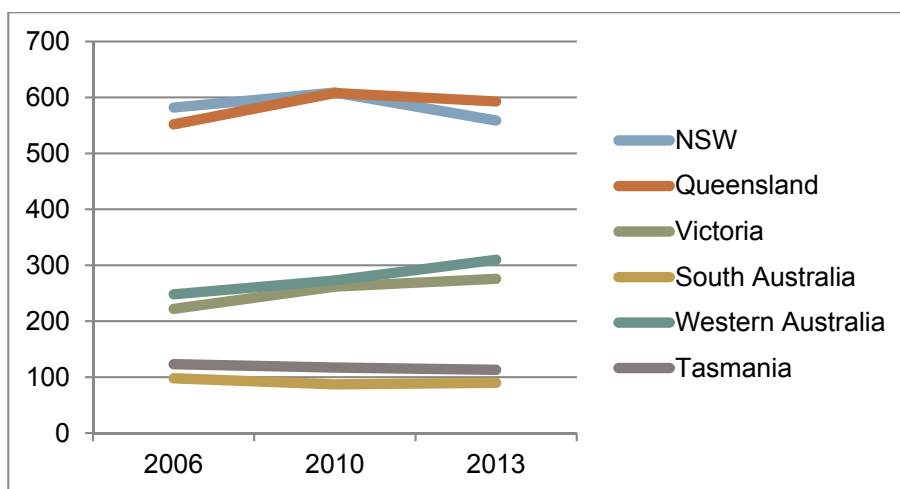
² Of these 30 churches two were existing churches whose data were included in the 2013 survey for the first time. Without these two churches the growth rate in Queensland for 2006-13 would be 16.7%. The national growth rate would be 6.8%.

Table 7: Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – Members by State

State	Membership			% Growth 2006-2013
	2006	2010	2013	
NSW/ACT	582	609	559	-4.0
Queensland	552	608	593	7.4
Victoria	222	262	276	24.3
South Australia/NT	98	87	90	-8.2
Western Australia	248	273	310	25.0
Tasmania	139	123	113	-18.7
Total Australia	1,842	1,825	1,941	5.4

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 3. Churches of Christ in Australia – Growth of Members by State: 2001 to 2010

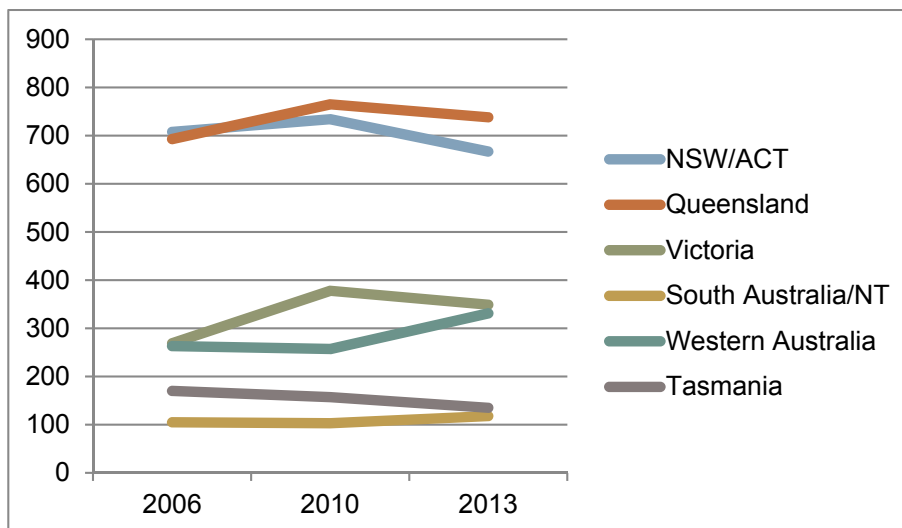


Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Table 8: Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – Sunday Attendance by State

State	Attendance			% Growth 2006-2013
	2006	2010	2013	
NSW/ACT	708	734	667	-5.8
Queensland	693	765	738	6.5
Victoria	269	378	349	29.7
South Australia/NT	105	103	118	12.4
Western Australia	263	257	331	25.9
Tasmania	170	157	135	-20.6
Total Australia	2,208	2,394	2,338	5.9

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 4. Growth of Sunday Attendance by State: 2006 to 2013

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

New South Wales/ACT

- The picture for NSW/ACT during the period 2006 to 2013 was mixed (Tables 7 & 8 and Figures 3 & 4).
- The number of churches in NSW/ACT increased from 20 to 22.
- The number of members decreased from 582 in 2006 to 559 in 2013.
- Average Sunday attendance decreased from 708 to 667.

Queensland

- The picture for Queensland was healthiest with increases in the number of churches, members and Sunday attendance.
- The number of churches increased from 24 to 30.³
- Members increased from 552 to 593.
- Average Sunday attendance increased from 693 to 738.

South Australia/Northern Territory

- South Australia/NT saw some growth in the number of churches and average attendances, but a decrease in members.
- The number of churches increased by one during the period.
- Members dropped from 98 in 2006 to 90 in 2013.
- Average Sunday attendance increased from 105 to 118.

Tasmania

- Tasmania saw a decline in the number of members and in Sunday attendance during 2006-2013.
- The number of churches in Tasmania remained the same.
- Members decreased from 139 to 113.
- Average Sunday attendance decreased from 170 to 135.

Victoria

- Growth in Victoria was strong in terms of members and Sunday attendance.
- The number of churches in Victoria grew by one.
- Members increased from 222 to 276 (24.3%).
- Average attendance increased from 269 to 349 (29.7%).

Western Australia

- Western Australia saw growth in members and Sunday attendance although the number of churches decreased.
- The number of churches in Western Australia dropped from 7 in from 2006 to 4 in 2013.
- Members increased from 248 to 310 (25.0%).
- Average Sunday attendance increased from 263 to 331 (25.9%).

³ The 2013 survey includes two existing churches whose data were included in the 2013 survey for the first time. (See Appendix A: About the Survey).

Urban and Rural Areas

Urban and rural centres

- To gain some understanding of the location of churches in rural and metropolitan areas, the survey results were analysed using classification framework derived from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).⁴
- For this analysis locations are classified as 'Major Urban Centres' or 'Rural centres' (Table 9).
- There are 7 sub-categories ranging from 'Major Capital Cities' to 'Other Rural Areas' based on size of population. Some examples of locations to be found in each are shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Urban/ Rural Classification

Category	Population	City/Urban/Rural Location - examples
<i>Major Urban Centres</i>		
Major Capital Cities	1 million or more	Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth
Larger Regional Cities	250,000 to 999,999	Canberra - Queanbeyan, Gold Coast - Tweed Heads, Central Coast, Newcastle
Smaller Regional Cities	100,000 to 249,999	Cairns, Darwin, Hobart, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Wollongong
<i>Rural Centres</i>		
Large Rural Centres	50,000 to 99,999	Albury - Wodonga, Bunbury, Toowoomba, Launceston
Medium Rural Centres	20,000 to 49,999	Bundaberg, Coffs Harbour, Devonport, Gladstone, Maryborough, Wagga Wagga
Small Rural Centres	10,000 to 19,999	Charters Towers, Cowra, Innisfail
Other Rural Areas	Less than 10,000	Proserpine, Kapunda

⁴ In previous years, the survey results were analysed using the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) Classification. This been replaced by other statistical frameworks developed as a part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)*. For an overview of the ASGS see: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1270.0.55.001Main+Features1July%202011?OpenDocument>.

Churches in urban and rural centres

- The majority of the churches and members are located in major urban centres (Tables 10 and 11). This includes 60% of churches and 81% of the members.
- Major urban areas centres have 48 of the 80 churches whose data are included in the survey. There are 1,570 members in major urban areas with a total Sunday attendance of 1,885.
- There are 32 churches (40%) in rural centres with 371 (19%) members.

Table 10: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Churches, Members and Attendance by Urban\Rural Location

Urban/Rural	Population	Churches	Members	Attendance
Major Urban Centres				
Major Capital Cities	1 million or more	35	1,273	1,522
Larger Regional Cities	250,000 to 999,999	6	180	200
Smaller Regional Cities	100,000 to 249,999	7	117	163
Rural Centres				
Large Rural Centres	50,000 to 99,999	9	189	233
Medium Rural centres	20,000 to 49,999	6	78	106
Small Rural Centres	10,000 to 19,999	7	56	62
Other Rural Areas	Less than 10,000	10	48	52
Total Australia		80	1,941	2,338

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Table 11: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Percentage of Churches, Members and Attendance by Urban\Rural Location

Classification	Population	Churches %	Members %	Attendance %
Major Urban Centres				
Major Capital Cities	1 million or more	43.8	65.6	65.1
Larger Regional Cities	250,000 to 999,999	7.5	9.3	8.6
Smaller Regional Cities	100,000 to 249,999	8.8	6.0	7.0
Rural Centres				
Large Rural Centres	50,000 to 99,999	11.3	9.7	10.0
Medium Rural centres	20,000 to 49,999	7.5	4.0	4.5
Small Rural Centres	10,000 to 19,999	8.8	2.9	2.7
Other Rural Areas	Less than 10,000	12.5	2.5	2.2
Total Australia		100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Major urban centres

- Major Capital Cities are the location of 35 (43.8%) churches (Tables 10 and 11). These churches have 1,273 members or 65.6% of the total Australian membership.
- Other major urban centres are the location for a further 13 churches (16.3%). There were 297 members in these churches. This is 15.3% of the total Australian membership.

Rural centres

- Of the 32 churches outside major urban areas, 9 are located in a Large Rural Centre (11.3%), 6 in a Medium Rural Centre (7.5%), 7 in a Small Rural Centre (8.8%), and 10 in Other Rural Areas (12.5%).

Major capital cities

- There are five State capital cities in Australia with a population of over 1 million people: Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.
- The number of churches, members and average Sunday attendance for Major Capital Cities can be seen in Tables 12 and 13 and Figure 5.
- Sydney has the largest number of churches (12), number of members (355) and average Sunday attendance (407).
- Brisbane and Melbourne have a similar profile in terms of number of churches, members and average attendance, although Brisbane is the larger in all of these.
- Perth has less churches but a much higher average in terms of members and attendance than the other major capital cities. In terms of the number of members, Perth is second only to Sydney.
- Brisbane has a higher ratio of average attendance to members (ie. 'baptised adult believers') than other major capital cities. On average, over 1 in every 3 attending on Sundays is a 'non-member'.

Table 12: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Number of Churches, Members and Attendance by Major Capital City

Major Capital City	Churches	Members	Attendance
Sydney	12	355	407
Brisbane	9	285	377
Melbourne	7	259	329
Adelaide	4	84	109
Perth	3	290	300
Total	35	1,273	1,522

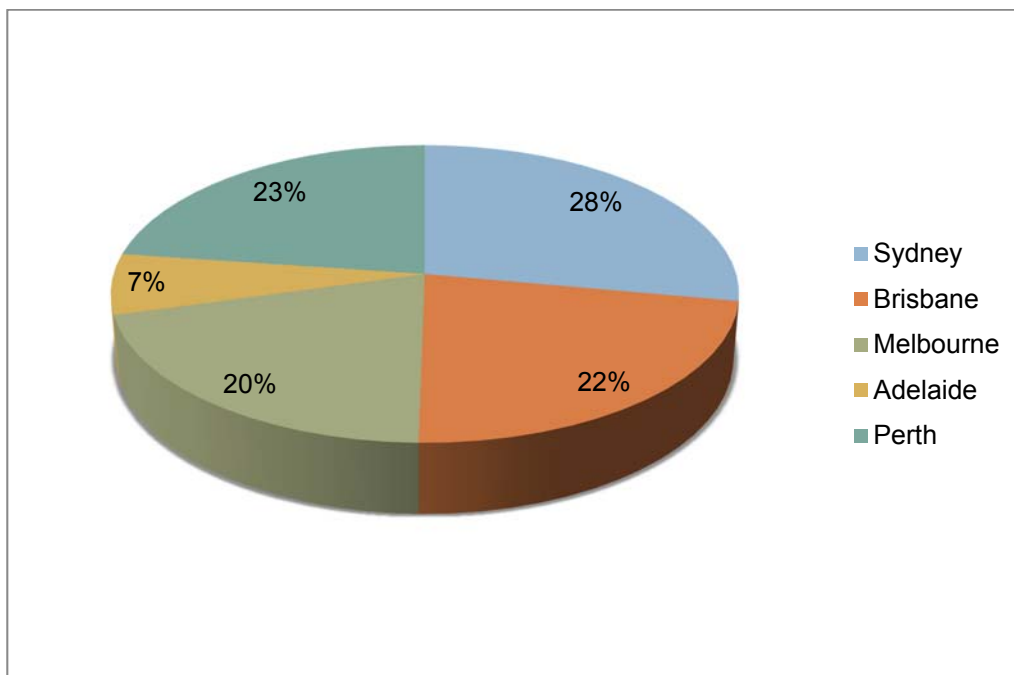
Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Table 13: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Percentage of Churches, Members and Attendance by Major Capital City

Major Capital City	Churches	Members	Attendance
Sydney	34.3	27.9	26.7
Brisbane	25.7	22.4	24.8
Melbourne	20.0	20.3	21.6
Adelaide	11.4	6.6	7.2
Perth	8.6	22.8	19.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 5. Churches of Christ in Australia – Percentage of Members by Major Capital City



Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Church Size

Church size (members)

- An overview of the size of churches (in terms of members) is shown in Table 14.
- There are only 2 churches with over 100 members. These two churches together have 300 members (15.5% of total members in Australia).
- In contrast, there are 48 churches with less than 20 members (60% of all churches).
- The largest number of churches in any category is 22 (10-19 members). This category includes 27.5% of all churches.
- There are 12 churches with over 50 members. These 12 churches have nearly half (48.7%) of the members of the churches in Australia

Table 14: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Number and Percentage of Churches and Members by Church Size (Members)

Size	Churches		Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Over 100	2	2.5	300	15.5
90-99	1	1.25	96	4.9
80-89	2	2.5	163	8.4
70-79	1	1.25	70	3.6
60-69	1	1.25	60	3.1
50-59	5	6.25	257	13.2
40-49	3	3.75	127	6.5
30-39	3	3.75	99	5.1
20-29	14	17.5	320	16.5
10-19	22	27.5	303	15.6
6-9	15	18.75	110	5.7
5 or Less	11	13.75	36	1.9
Total	80	100.0	1,941	100.0

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Church size (attendance)

- There are 4 churches with an average Sunday attendance of over 100 people (Table 15). These churches have a combined attendance of 515 people (22% of total attendance).
- There are 46 churches with Sunday attendances of under 20 people (making up 57.5% of all the churches). Churches of this size have a total Sunday attendance of 496 people (21.2% of total attendance).

Table 15: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Number and Percentage of Churches and Average Sunday Attendance by Church Size (Attendance)

Size	Churches		Total Sunday Attendance	
	No.	%	No.	%
Over 100	4	5.0	515	22.0
90-99	2	2.5	185	7.9
80-89	2	2.5	167	7.1
70-79	1	1.3	70	3.0
60-69	3	3.8	185	7.9
50-59	2	2.5	107	4.6
40-49	3	3.8	134	5.7
30-39	8	10.0	255	10.9
20-29	9	11.3	224	9.6
10-19	25	31.3	380	16.3
6-9	11	13.8	78	3.3
5 or Less	10	12.5	38	1.6
Total	80	100.0	2,338	100.0

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Church Growth Categories (Attendance)

Church growth categories

- The survey results were analysed using a framework of church size categories to measure church growth.⁵ This framework is outlined in Table 16 below.
- There are six categories ranging from 'Mega Churches' with an average of 3,000 or more people in attendance in Sunday meetings to 'Micro Churches' with between 3 and 34 people gathering together on Sundays.⁶
- Opportunities for churches in each of the size categories to support staff and maintain facilities are included in Table 16.

Table 16: Church Growth Categories

Category	Size (Sunday Attendance)	Comments
Mega Church	3,000+	Support staff of functional specialists/ multiple campuses
Very Large Church	1,000-2,999	Full-time staff for age-related/ pastoral/ benevolent ministries
Large Church	200-1,000	Multiple full-time staff and ministry leaders/own facilities
Medium Church	75-199	Likely to have their own facilities/ continuity of full-time workers
Small Church	35-74	May have periods where they cannot afford or attract a full-time worker
Micro Church	3-34	Small enough to meet in a home/unlikely to have a full-time minister or their own meeting place

Source: George, Carl F. *Prepare Your Church for the Future* (1992)

⁵ See George, Carl F. *Prepare Your Church for the Future* (Fleming H. Revel, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1992).

⁶ Sometimes the term 'house church' is used rather than 'micro church'. However, generally speaking 'house church' should be used where there is a deliberate strategy of forming networks of churches meeting in homes. On the other hand 'micro church' just refers to the smallest category of churches.

Size of churches

- There are no congregations in the survey which fall within the first three church growth categories: 'Mega Church', 'Very Large Church' or 'Large Church'.
- All congregations are to be found in the lowest three categories: 'Medium Church', 'Small Church' and 'Micro Church' categories (Tables 17 and 18; Figure 6).
- The majority of congregations are in the category of 'Micro Church' or 'Very Small Churches'. These are churches with Sunday gatherings of 34 or less people in attendance. In this category are 61 churches making up 76.3% of all the churches surveyed.
- There were 11 churches in the Small Church category accounting for 13.8% of the total number of churches.
- In contrast, there were 8 churches in the Medium Church category (10.0% of the churches).
- The 8 churches in the Medium Church category have an average attendance of 867 people (37.1% of total attendance). In contrast, the 61 churches in the 'Micro Church' category have an average Sunday of attendance of 902 people.
- The above findings suggest that non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia are predominantly a 'micro church' movement. The majority of our congregations are small in size, with over 90% under 75 in attendance and 76.3% under 35 in attendance.
- With most churches so small, it is very difficult for congregations to sustain full-time staff or to afford new church facilities. As a result, historically financial support is often sought from overseas, particularly the United States, to secure ministers and build facilities.

Table 17: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Number and Percentage of Churches by Church Growth Category

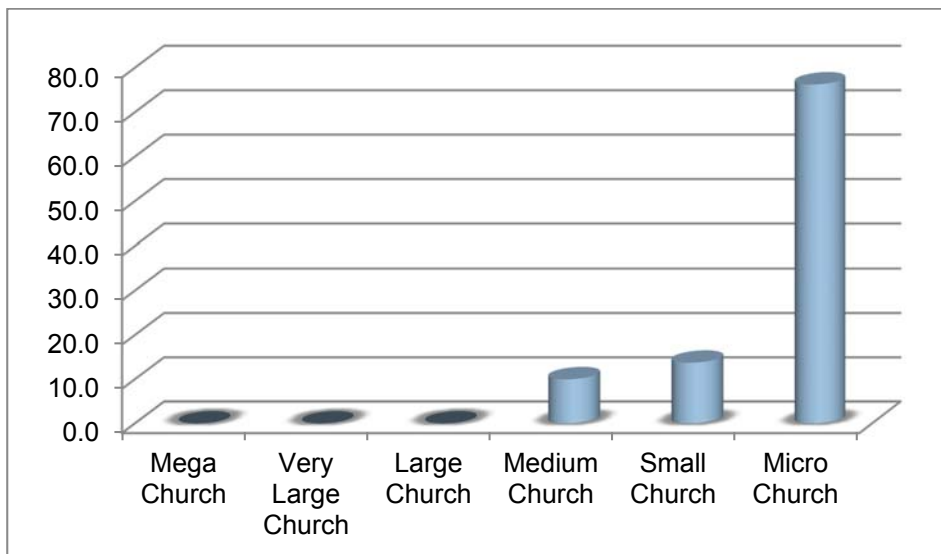
Category	Size (Sunday Attendance)	Churches	Percentage
Mega Church	3,000+	0	0.0
Very Large Church	1,000-2,999	0	0.0
Large Church	200-1,000	0	0.0
Medium Church	75-199	8	10.0
Small Church	35-74	11	13.8
Micro Church	3-34	61	76.3
Total		80	100.0

Source: *Australian Church Surveys (2014)*

Table 18: Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Total Average Weekly Attendance by Church Growth Category

Category	Size (Sunday Attendance)	Total Weekly Attendance	Percentage
Mega Church	3,000+	0	0.0
Very Large Church	1,000-2,999	0	0.0
Large Church	200-1,000	0	0.0
Medium Church	75-199	867	37.1
Small Church	35-74	569	24.3
Micro Church	3-34	902	38.6

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Figure 6. Churches of Christ in Australia 2013 – Number of Churches by Church Growth Category

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)

Baptisms

Baptisms by state 2006-2013

- There were 99 baptisms for the previous 12 months, as reported in the 2013 survey (Table 18).
- The number of baptisms has increased each survey during the period: 83 in 2006; 90 in 2010 and 99 in 2013.
- The highest number of baptisms in 2013 took place in Queensland (with over one third of all baptisms in Australia).
- The number of baptisms in NSW dropped from 32 in 2006 to 21 in 2013 (a decrease of 34.4% over the period).
- The number of baptisms rose in Queensland from 22 in 2006 to 36 in 2013 (63.6%) and in Western Australia from 13 to 21 (61.5%).
- Greatest increases between 2010 and 2013 were seen in Western Australia (75%) and Queensland (28.6%).

Table 18: Churches of Christ in Australia 2006-2013 – Number of Baptisms by State

State	Baptisms in preceding 12 months		
	2006	2010	2013
NSW/ACT	32	23	21
Queensland	22	28	36
Western Australia	13	12	21
Other States/Territories	16	27	21
Total Australia	83	90	99

Source: Australian Church Surveys (2014)



For more information contact:

- Alan Rowley, Klesis Institute, PO Box 700, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia. info@klesis.com.au
- Peter Gray, Southern Pacific Christian Research, 55 Kookaburra Street, Kincumber, NSW 2251, Australia. pgray@bigpond.net.au

Appendix A: About the Surveys

When did the surveys start and how many have there been?

- The first survey took place in 1984 and was conducted by Stephen Randall of the Canberra Church of Christ to support an application for a government land grant.
- This is the tenth survey covering a 30 year period. Previous surveys took place in 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 2001, 2006 and 2010.

Who conducts the surveys?

- Stephen Randall for many years conducted the surveys. The last three surveys (2006, 2010 and 2013) were conducted by Alan Rowley from Klesis Institute (www.klesis.com.au). Klesis is based in Melbourne and is operated by Christians who are identified with non-denominational Churches of Christ.

How are the results analysed and reported?

- Through the years, the survey results have been reported on by Stephen Randall and Peter Gray in publications such as *Happenings* (Australia) and *The Christian Chronicle* (USA). More recent surveys have also been publicised in *InterSections* (published by Klesis Institute) and made available on the Klesis website.
- Analysis of the surveys has been undertaken by Peter Gray of Southern Pacific Christian Research.
- Survey results have been entered into a research database (*Australian Church Surveys Database*) to help us understand past growth trends and actions needed for future growth.

What questions are asked in the survey?

- Three simple questions are asked of churches: the number of members; their average Sunday attendance; and the number of baptisms over the previous 12 months.
- For the 2013 survey, the questions are answered with reference to the month of October of the survey year. So the data used in this report are for October 2013.

What is the coverage of the survey?

- Churches of Christ have a history in Australia that stretches back to 1848. Pioneers from Scotland and New Zealand established the first congregations in South Australia. They were part of the growing 'Restoration Movement' which sought to a return to Bible-based churches. The heirs to Restoration Movement today are represented in Australia by four groups: Australian Churches of Christ Conference; independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ; International Churches of Christ (ICOC); and non-denominational Churches of Christ. This survey covers those churches identifying themselves generally as non-denominational Churches of Christ.

- For a history written from the perspective of non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia, see: David Roper, *Voices Crying in the Wilderness: A History of the Lord's Church with Special Emphasis on Australia* (Restoration Publications, Salisbury, South Australia, 1979). These churches are related historically and theologically to the Churches of Christ branch of the American Restoration Movement (also called the Stone-Campbell Movement).

Who participates in the survey?

- The survey participants through the years have been drawn mainly from the non-denominational Churches of Christ. These churches do not have a denominational hierarchy and are governed congregationally.
- Alan Rowley from Klesis Institute has produced an updated directory of non-denominational Churches of Christ in Australia. This is available online from www.klesis.com.au and is updated annually. This directory was used as the basis for the 2013 survey.
- From time to time a church may decline to participate in the survey for doctrinal or other reasons. In any one survey year there may be one or two churches which identify as non-denominational Churches of Christ but which do not provide data for the survey. However, their numbers have in the past been quite small and would have made little impact on overall survey numbers.
- For the 2013 survey, data from 80 congregations were used, including data relating to two churches which previously were not included in past surveys.
- During the 1980s up to around 1988 some churches from the Discipling Movement/International Church of Christ (ICOC) background also took part in the survey. After that time they declined to participate. Then, in 2006, three congregations from a Discipling Movement/ICOC background took part in the survey. Subsequent surveys have seen much less participation by these congregations. In order to overcome the statistical impact of the shifting in and shifting out of these congregations, in 2010 a review was undertaken of the surveys from 1984 onwards to produce statistics for non-denominational Churches of Christ which exclude data for these Discipling Movement/ICOC congregations. The resultant set of statistics is provided in the table below. Note, however, that the figures do include one congregation which emerged from the ICOC but no longer regards itself as part of the ICOC.

Churches of Christ in Australia 1984 - 2010 (without Discipling Movement/ICOC congregations)

	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	2001	2006	2010
Members	1,874	1,937	1,841	1,781	1,838	1,799	1,842	1,825	1,956
Attendance	2,417	2,592	2,492	2,439	2,419	2,373	2,308	2,208	2,394
Churches	64	71	73	76	80	80	78	73	78

A word of caution concerning statistics ...

- Just a word of caution concerning the interpretation of the statistics: they can show what happened in terms of the growth or decline of the number of members and the average attendance among churches. However, they don't tell us why the numbers increased or decreased. This can only be ascertained through research into the history of the churches in that location.

