



**Sydney Presbytery**  
**Uniting Church in Australia**  
From the 2016 National Church Life Survey

# Executive Summary

1. We are more highly educated and younger than the wider UCA (60% of our participants have completed a university degrees and on average we are 10 years younger).
2. We are extremely multicultural with 54% born overseas (and this stat does not include the Tonga Parish and Fiji Parish and other CALC communities as yet).
3. We see a high turnover - a third of our congregants have joined their current church in the past 5 years.
4. Our members want their church's priorities for the next 12 months to be:
  - o Spiritual growth, worship & building community, with encouraging people's gifts, supporting social action and including newcomers.
5. We are gifted and skilled in communication, hospitality, relationship building & education, leadership/management and music.
6. We invite newcomers more consistently to musical events, opportunities for hospitality, or events organised around public issues



## Snapshot of the 2016 NCLS

- Largest, longest running survey on church life in the world.
- 2016 was the sixth survey wave in 25 years (1991 to 2016).
- 20+ denominations took part.
- Ten languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Tongan, Dinka, Arabic, Italian, Chin (Burmese) and Karen (Burmese).
- Child Attender Survey for 8 to 14 year olds



More than 20 denominations and movements participated in the 2016 NCLS including:

Acts 2 Alliance (A2A)

Anglican Church

Australian Christian Churches (ACC)

Baptist Churches

Brethren Churches

Catholic Church

Christian & Missionary Alliance

C3 Church

Christian Reformed Churches

CRC Churches International

Churches of Christ

Congregational Church

International Pentecostal Holiness Churches

International Network of Churches (INC)

Lutheran Church

Presbyterian Church

Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Salvation Army

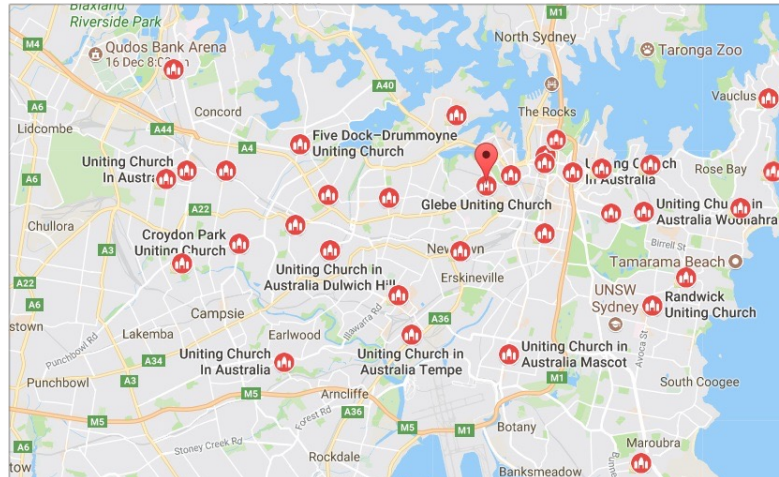
Uniting Church in Australia

Vineyard Churches

Independent churches

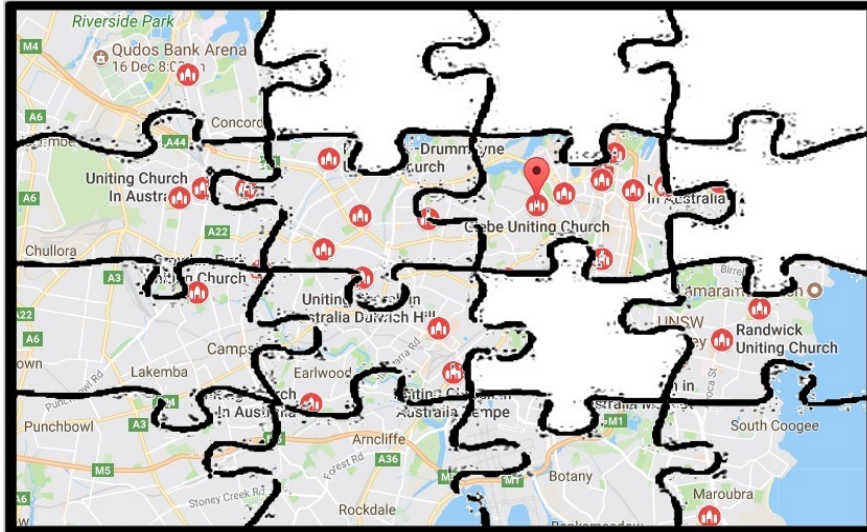
# Snapshot of the 2016 NCLS

About 240,000 attender surveys, over 7,000 leader surveys have been returned, from almost 3,000 locations.



In Sydney Presbytery we currently have an incomplete picture...

**988 adult attenders in 23 churches, and 54 children.**



It is not too late  
for a church to  
take part! Order  
surveys at  
[2016ncls.org.au](http://2016ncls.org.au)



## Uniting Church



### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



63% of all people are female and 37% are male

35% of all people have a university degree



27% have a trade certificate, diploma or associate diploma



38% have primary or secondary school education



## Sydney Presbytery



### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



59% of all people are female and 41% are male

60% of all people have a university degree



18% have a trade certificate, diploma or associate diploma



22% have primary or secondary school education



## Uniting Church



### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



63% of all people are female and 37% are male

35% of all people have a university degree



67% have a trade certificate,



38% have primary or secondary school education



## Sydney Presbytery



### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



59% of all people are female and 41% are male

60% of all people have a university degree



19% have a trade certificate,



22% have primary or secondary school education



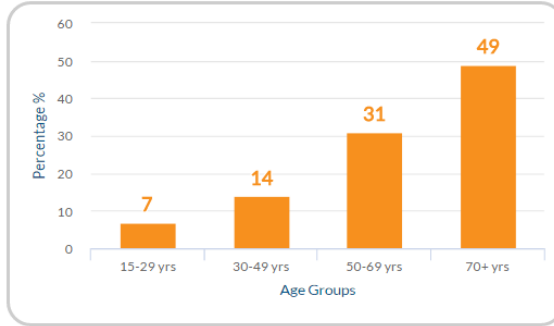
Australia  
22%

**WE ARE VERY HIGHLY EDUCATED**



## Uniting Church

The AVERAGE AGE of people is **65** years



**76%** of all people were born in AUSTRALIA

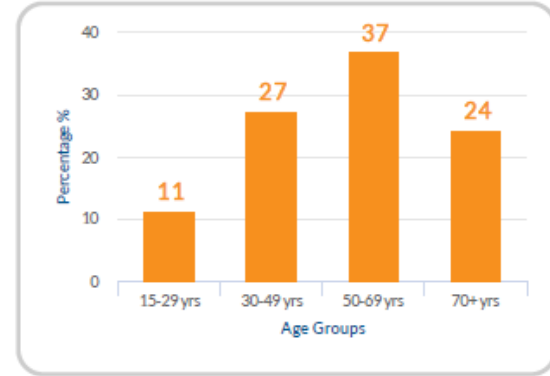
**24%** were born overseas

**12%** speak a language other than ENGLISH at home



## Sydney Presbytery

The AVERAGE AGE of people is **55** years



**46%** of all people were born in AUSTRALIA

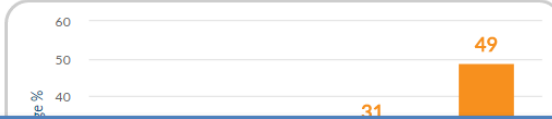
**54%** were born overseas

**40%** speak a language other than ENGLISH at home



## Uniting Church

The AVERAGE AGE of people is 65 years



## Sydney Presbytery

The AVERAGE AGE of people is 55 years



**WE ARE YOUNGER THAN THE WIDER UCA AND  
HIGHLY MULTICULTURAL**



Age Groups



Age Groups

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24% were born overseas

12% speak a language other than ENGLISH at home



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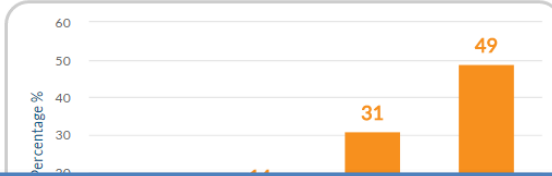
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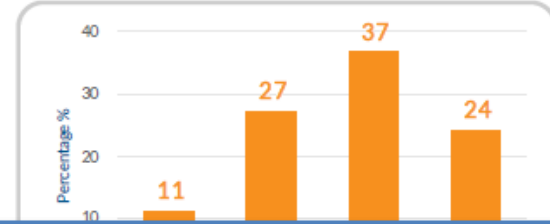
## Uniting Church

## Sydney Presbytery

The AVERAGE AGE of people is 65 years



The AVERAGE AGE of people is 55 years



**EVEN BEFORE TONGA PARISH & FIJI PARISH PARTICIPATE (in progress)**

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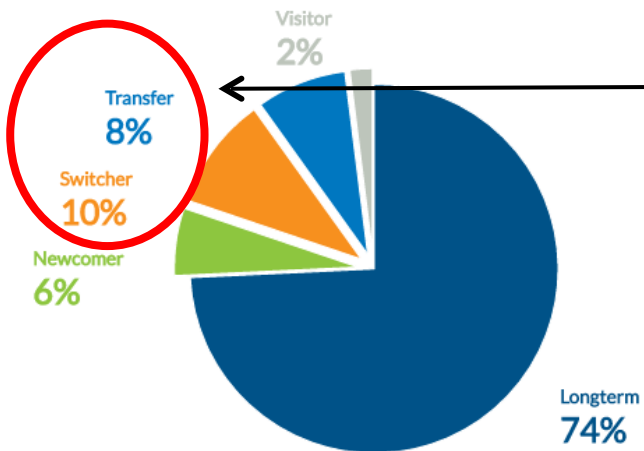
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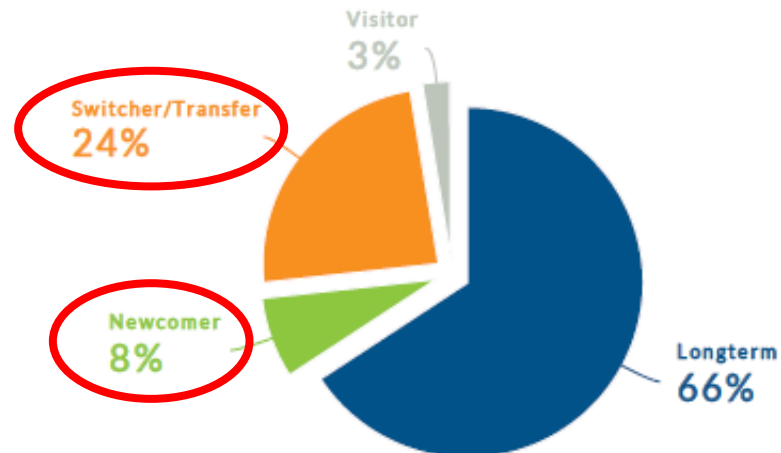




## CHURCH BACKGROUND and ATTENDANCE



## CHURCH BACKGROUND and ATTENDANCE



## Uniting Church

25% of attenders here are new arrivals to this church in the past five years.

97% attend church worship service at least monthly



## Sydney Presbytery

34% of attenders are new arrivals to their church in the past five years.

95% attend church worship services at least monthly



## Uniting Church

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97% attend church worship service at least monthly



## Sydney Presbytery

34% of attenders are new arrivals to their church in the past five years.

95% attend church worship services at least monthly



**WE ARE MORE TRANSIENT THAN THE WIDER UCA. AN URBAN CONTEXT IN FLUX**



What will  
you learn?



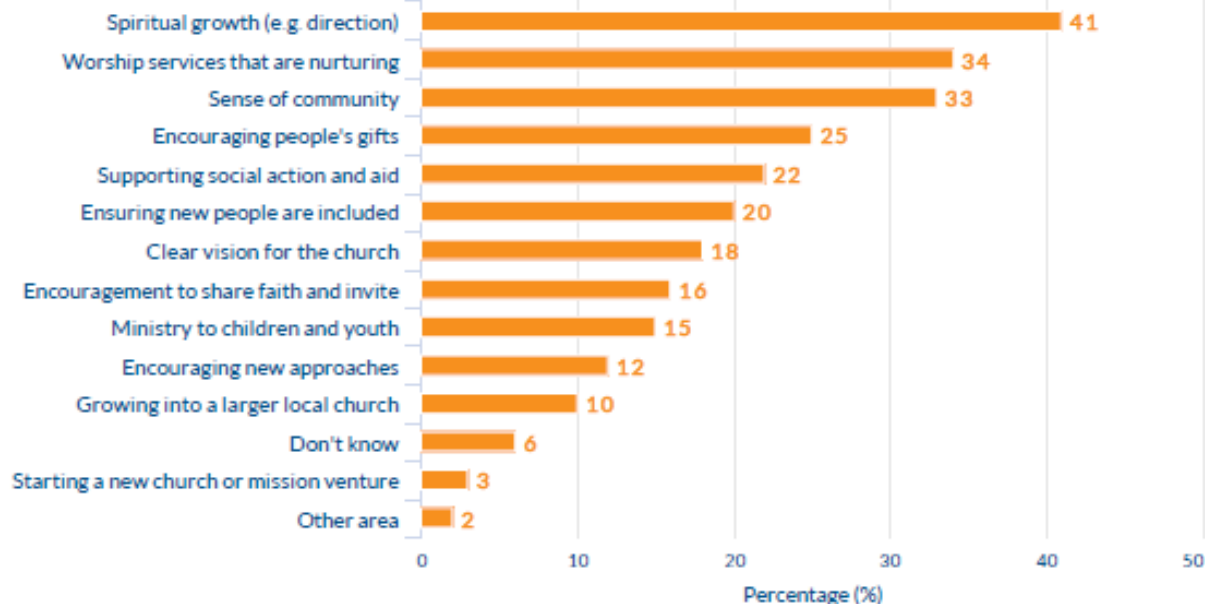


Let's pretend that  
the Sydney  
Presbytery is one  
congregation...



## FUTURE PRIORITIES

Over the next 12 months most attenders would like priority given to: 'Spiritual growth (e.g. direction)' and 'Worship services that are nurturing'.



FUTURE  
PRIORITIES

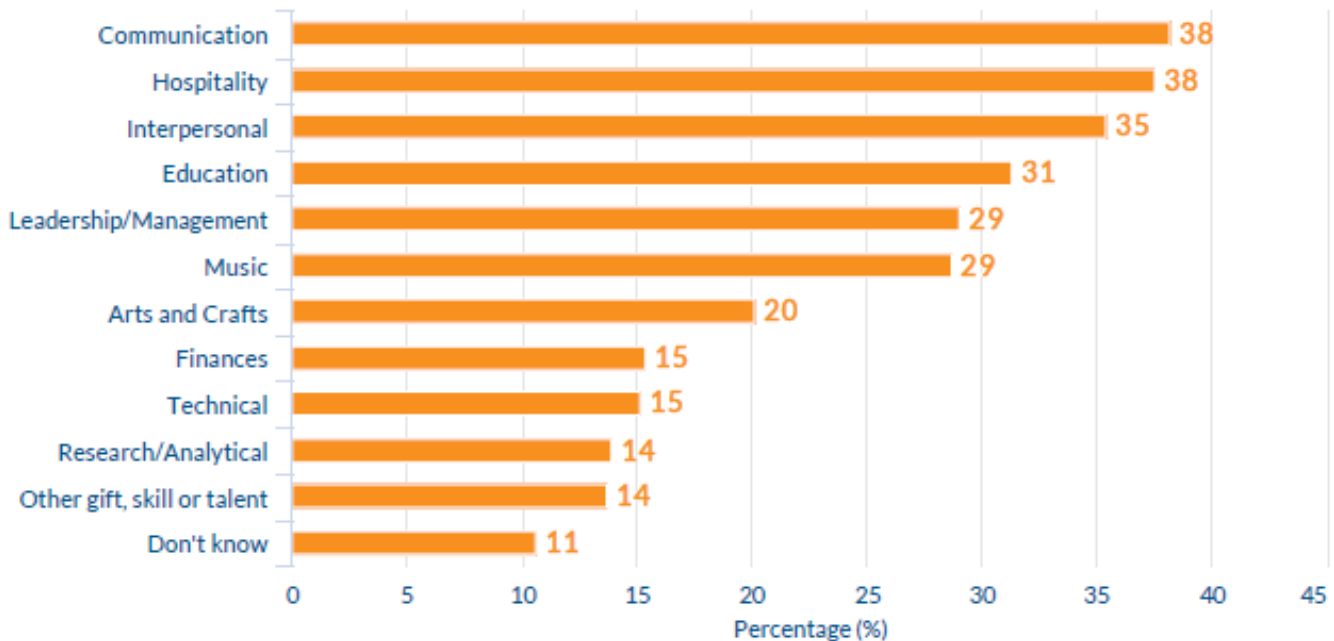
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### USE OF GIFTS and SKILLS

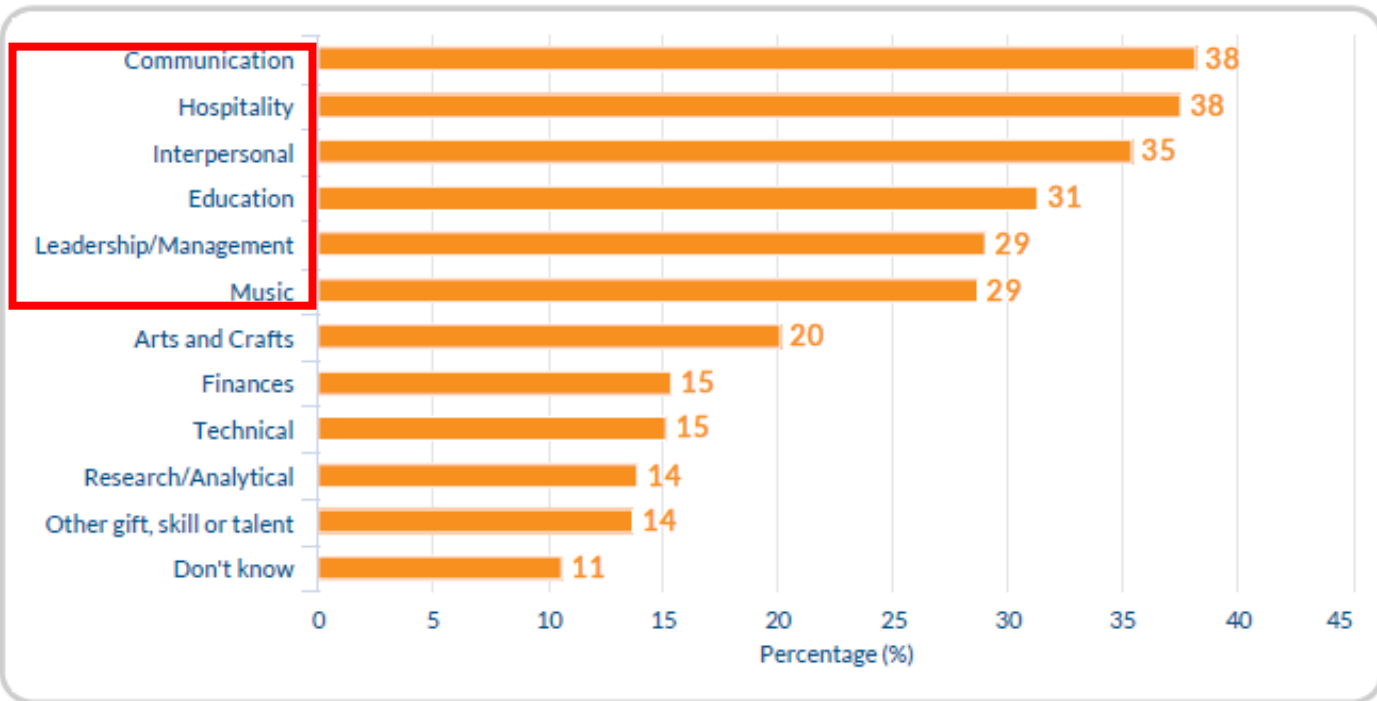
Attendees most commonly identified their gifts or skills as "Communication: write, edit, speak" and "Hospitality: welcome, host, provide food"





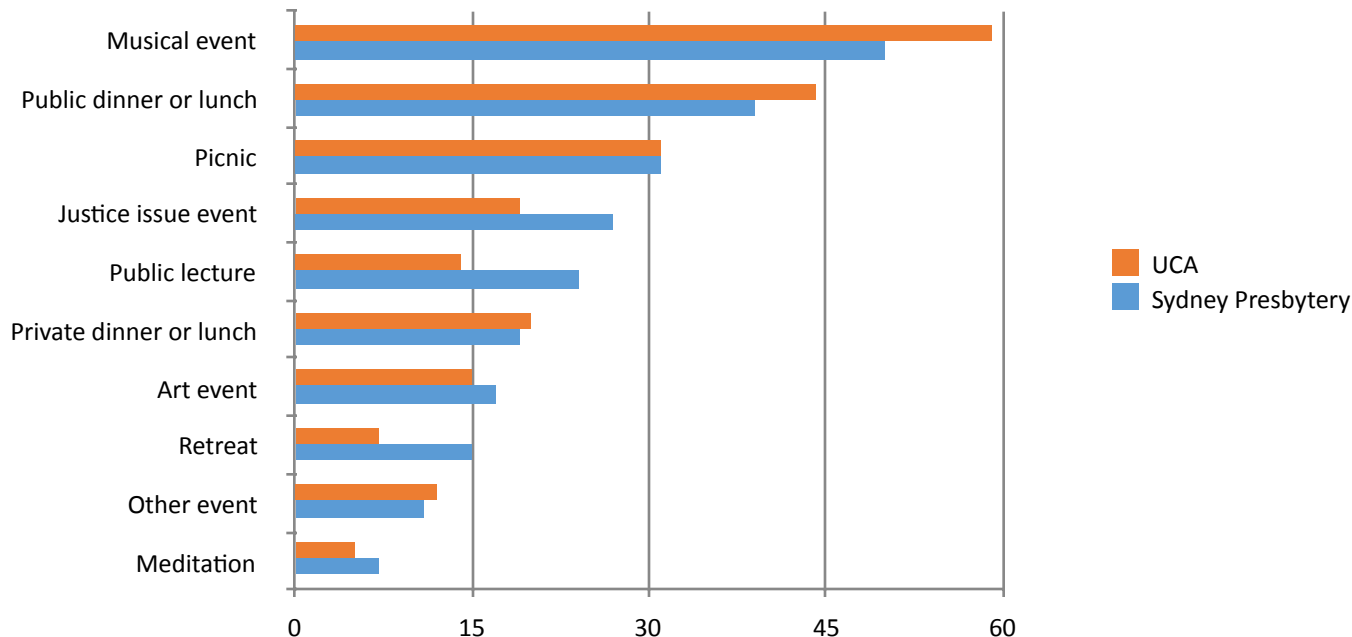
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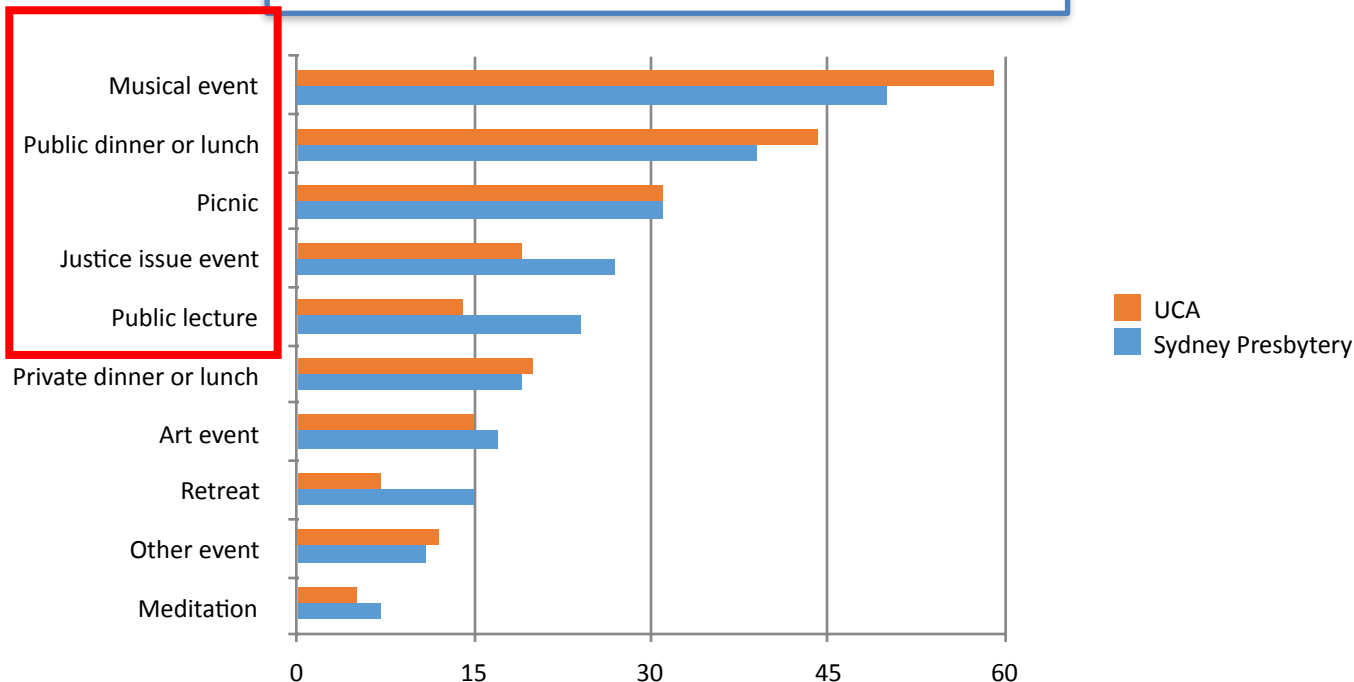




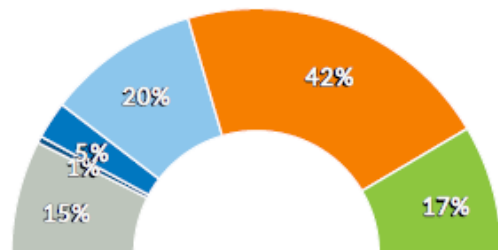
### Events that attenders would invite to:



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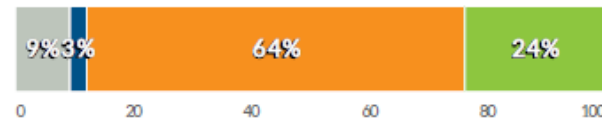


**59%** of attenders agree that their GIFTS, SKILLS AND TALENTS ARE BEING USED WELL at their local church



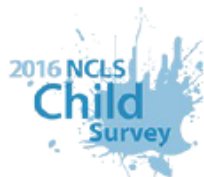
Don't Know
Strongly Disagree
Disagree
Neutral/Unsure
Agree
Strongly Agree

**24%** want to be MORE INVOLVED at their local church



Unsure
Want to be less involved
Happy with current level
Want to be more involved

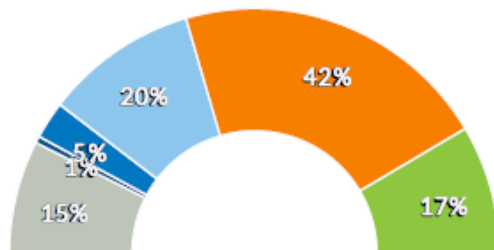
**13% in wider UCA**



### GIFTS & SKILLS OF CHILDREN

Children most commonly identified "Standing up for what is fair and right" and "Being kind to people who don't have any friends yet" as their gifts and skills.

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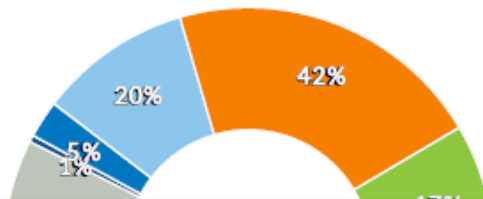
**2 in 3 attenders are happy with their current level of involvement and only 3% want to be less involved.**



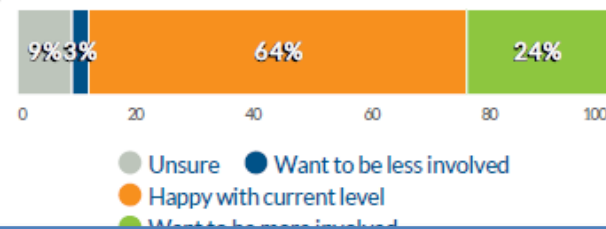
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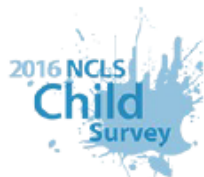
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24% want to be MORE INVOLVED at their local church



**Only 1 in 6 attenders strongly agree that their gifts, skills & talents are being used well. One quarter want to be more involved.**



## GIFTS & SKILLS OF CHILDREN

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wider  
UCA



## PERSONAL FAITH

38% of attenders said that they had experienced much GROWTH IN FAITH in the previous 12 months



## PERSONAL FAITH

50% of attenders said that they had experienced much GROWTH IN FAITH in the previous 12 months



Sydney Presbytery



During church worship services, attenders always or usually experience:

MUSIC  
they appreciate



GROWTH  
in understanding of God



Being challenged to  
TAKE ACTION

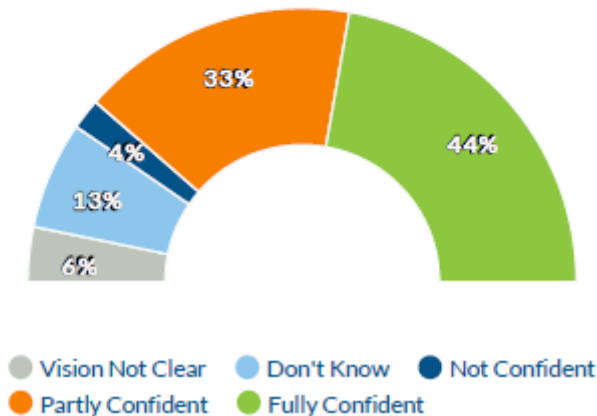






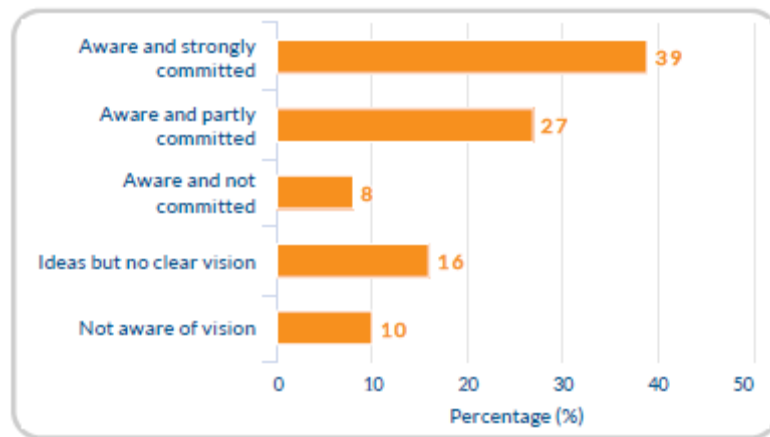
### LEADERSHIP CULTURE

**44%** are fully confident that their local church CAN ACHIEVE THE VISION, goals or directions set



### VISION and INNOVATION

**39%** of people are both aware of and strongly COMMITTED TO THE VISION and goals or directions for their local church



## Sydney Presbytery Summary

1. Very highly educated and younger than the wider UCA
2. Extremely multicultural
3. High turnover - a third have joined their current church in the past 5 years.
4. Priorities for the next 12 months:
  1. spiritual growth, worship & building community, with encouraging people's gifts, supporting social action and including newcomers.
5. Our People: are gifted and skilled in communication, hospitality, relationship building & education, leadership/management and music.
6. They would invite to musical events, opportunities for hospitality, or events
7. organised around public issues.

For more info & to order your survey, please visit:  
[planning.ncls.org.au](http://planning.ncls.org.au)



**uniting  
church**  
Sydney  
Presbytery

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