

National Anglican Family Safety Study

A research project into the nature and prevalence of family violence in faith communities

The Anglican Church of Australia “has a role to play in promoting healthy, respectful relationships”, it said as it announced a research project on domestic violence. The research will examine “the nature and prevalence of family violence in Anglican-affiliated families” in a project designed to help the Church to tackle domestic violence. The three-stage project will include surveys and interviews with Anglicans within and outside the Church, with clergy and church leaders, and a sample of the broader population.¹



NCLS Research has been engaged as lead researchers in the Anglican Family Safety Study. This research centre is a joint venture between church denominations and Charles Sturt University. Most well-known for conducting the 25-year National Church Life Survey, NCLS Research also conducts diverse commissioned research projects. The Anglican Family Safety Study will comprise three studies.

Study One: The nature of experiences of family violence for those with a connection with Anglican churches.

Research questions include:

1. What is the nature of experiences of family violence for those with a connection with Anglican churches?
2. How has the Anglican Church featured in these experiences?
3. What are the attitudes to family violence amongst those with a connection to the Anglican Church?

Method: Mixed methods: Interviews preceded by online anonymous survey.

Study Two: The nature of attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and practices regarding family violence among Anglican clergy and church leaders.

Research questions include:

1. What attitudes and knowledge do Anglican clergy and local church leaders have re family violence?
2. What practices are they engaging with in their local church contexts?
3. How equipped are they to respond?

Method: Mixed methods: Online survey of sample of clergy and other leaders, preceded by focus groups.

Study Three: The prevalence of instances of family violence among Australians who identify as Anglican.

Research questions include:

1. What is the prevalence of instances of family violence among Australians who identify as Anglicans (in response to the question “What is your religion”)?
2. What is the prevalence of instances of family violence among Australians who regularly attend an Anglican church?

Method: Online survey.

A report will be brought to the 2020 Anglican General Synod.

References

<https://www.anglican.org.au/family-violence>

<http://ncls.org.au/research/research-services>

For more information contact:

Associate Professor Ruth Powell,
Director, NCLS Research

info@ncls.org.au,

(02) 9139 2525,

PO Box 827, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

¹ <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2018/11/anglican-church-of-australia-to-research-domestic-violence-in-anglican-affiliated-families.aspx>