



**Walk Alongside**

**Church Evaluation Tool**  
***(Survey)***

**(Edition 1, 2016)**



## **What is the Walk Alongside Church Survey?**

The Walk Alongside Church Survey Tool is an optional evaluation tool designed to help you and your church make informed decisions about your Walk Alongside Action Plan. It aims to provide an initial overview of how your church is currently engaged in reconciliation activities. It also provides a process for review so that your church can track and celebrate its progress. The survey is intended to be completed at the beginning of your Walk Alongside journey and then again after 12 months.

## **Why do we need a survey?**

A survey is a useful way for us to know if the Walk Alongside Church Toolkit is having a positive impact on Australian Christian Churches and their engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It also helps World Vision and Reconciliation Australia gauge if the delivery of the program is effective and what can be done to improve the program.

## **What will your church get out of it?**

The Walk Alongside Church Survey will help you to think about and identify what your church currently does in relation to reconciliation and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This is important as it helps show what your church is already doing well, and

- Where there might be gaps
- Who has an interest in making a change and who are the right people to involve
- What your current focus is and how to plan your next steps

## **Who is your church's initial point of contact?**

For further information about this survey please contact [church@worldvision.com.au](mailto:church@worldvision.com.au)

## **Who should answer the questions?**

It has been intended that this survey be answered within a group setting which could include the senior leadership of the church and any additional non-staff members of the Walk Alongside Working Group.

## **How is the survey to be completed and submitted?**

The Walk Alongside Church Survey will be provided in paper-form so that the Working Group can complete the survey together and discuss the responses appropriately. Completion of this survey is voluntary. Information within this survey is confidential, unless your church's permission is obtained for specific sharing or learning purposes.

Please post your completed survey to:

**World Vision Australia**

**Attention: Church Partnerships (Walk Alongside)**

**GPO Box 399C**

**Melbourne VIC 3001**

Alternatively, you can scan and email your completed survey to: [church@worldvision.com.au](mailto:church@worldvision.com.au)

## **Understanding the Survey Questions - Guidance Notes**

Guidance Notes are provided for each question to help you and your church understand why questions are asked and their implications.

# Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey

## Part 1: Introduction

<b>GUIDANCE NOTE</b>	
<b>Part 1: Introduction</b>	<b>Why we ask this</b>
What is the size of the church congregation, what ministries is the church active in and do any church members identify themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	This general information will give an indication of areas the church is active in and how the toolkit might be used.

<b>Date:</b> _____	<b>Respondent Details:</b>
<b>Circle which survey you are completing:</b>	<b>Church Name:</b>
Initial Survey	<b>Senior Pastor/Minister:</b>
Final Survey	<b>Denomination:</b>
	<b>Address:</b>
	<b>Church Contact for Walk Alongside:</b>
	<b>Phone:</b>
	<b>Email:</b>

<b>Q1.1 What is the approximate size of your church congregation?</b> (number of people who participate regularly in church services or church-led activities)	
---	--

<b>Q1.2 List the programs (ministries) your church currently provides for people within the church</b> (i.e. children, youth, worship, small groups, discipleship) and for the broader community (counselling, mothers' group, community kitchen, food hampers)	- - - - - - - - - - - - - -
---	--

<b>Q 1.3 Do any of the members of the congregation identify themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?</b> (circle one response)
Yes    No    Not sure
<b>If yes, provide details:</b>

<b>Q 1.4 Does this church have any connection to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander churches or ministries?</b> (circle one response)
Yes    No    Not sure
<b>If yes, provide details:</b>

# Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey

GUIDANCE NOTE	
<b>Part 2: Activity Audit</b>	<b>Why we ask this</b>
What resources the church has used already around reconciliation apart from the Walk Alongside Church Toolkit.	This helps us to know if the church is using any of the resources or participating in any related activities. This will provide a baseline for the first time the survey is completed, to monitor over time.

## Part 2: Activity Audit

**Which, if any, of the following tools or activities have been used by the church? (Tick)**

Relationships	
World Vision's Bible Study "Reconciliation: Seeking Restored Relationships"	
Miroslav Volf's podcasts on reconciliation	
Participate in/or revisit previous church results from the National Church Life Survey	
Contacting Local Government Council	
<b>Respect</b>	
"Sharing Our Story" (DVD Resource)	
Reconciliation Australia's "Share Our Pride" website	
"The Little Red Yellow Black" website	
"Australians Together" website	
"Tourism Australia" website or Local Government website for local Indigenous history sites of interest	
Participate in National Reconciliation Week event	
Participate in NAIDOC celebration events	
Attend a cultural event which explores Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander Culture/s ( <i>excluding National Reconciliation Week or NAIDOC week events</i> )	
Learning the Church history and connection to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders	
Cultural awareness training	
Include an "Acknowledgement of Country" within a church service or event	
Include an "Welcome to Country" within a church service or event	
Communicate reconciliation commitments with the congregation and community	
<b>Opportunities</b>	
Reconciliation Well activities	
Sign the Recognise Campaign online petition	
Attend a Recognise Campaign event	
Partnering with programs that support an Indigenous Church or community	
Volunteer for an Indigenous organisation or an organisation that has a respected Indigenous program	

Other: (describe briefly)

# Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey

## Part 3: Activity Statements

These are designed to capture the journey of change for churches. The example questions below will use a descriptive rating scale of 1 – 5 for initial piloting and then will be revised if required upon church feedback.

Read the 8 Activity Statements (pg.5-12) and decide which rating description best describes the church's current level of activity.

GUIDANCE NOTE			
Activity Statement	Why we ask this		
3.1 Our church has reflected on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message	This provides a general overview of how the church is reflecting on and speaking about reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message		
3.1	<b>Our church has reflected on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message</b>		
	Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.		
	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 6 months:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response and specify who is included as "church leaders" (i.e. senior minister, elders, church staff, small group leaders, volunteer leaders?)
	1. Church leaders have not intentionally reflected on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2. Church leaders have intentionally reflected on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message in private	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3. Church leaders have shared their reflections on reconciliation with their ministry teams, encouraging them to reflect on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Church leaders have shared their reflections on reconciliation with their ministry teams and the church congregation, encouraging them to reflect on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Church leaders have shared their reflections on reconciliation with their ministry teams, the church congregation and others within community, encouraging them to reflect on reconciliation and its centrality to the gospel message	<input type="checkbox"/>		

GUIDANCE NOTE			
Activity Statement	Why we ask this		
3.2 Our church leaders have identified key values and behaviours that will inform and guide their church's programs and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	We want to find out if the church is consulting with the community and working in partnership, rather than imposing its own ideas on a community		
<b>3.2 Our church leaders have identified key values and behaviours that will inform and guide their church's programs and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</b>  Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 6 months:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response
	1. No key values and behaviours have been identified or reviewed		
	2. Key values and behaviours have been identified or reviewed		
	3. Key values and behaviours have been identified or reviewed and shared with the congregation		
	4. Key values and behaviours have been identified or reviewed, shared with the congregation and demonstrated in at least one program/ministry area		
	5. Key values and behaviours have been identified or reviewed, shared with the congregation and demonstrated in at least three program/ministry areas		

<b>GUIDANCE NOTE</b>			
<b>Activity Statement</b>	<b>Why we ask this</b>		
3.3 Our church has allocated church resources for activities that promote reconciliation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	This is a question about stewardship and aims to discover if the church members are aware of the church's intentions for planning and resourcing activities (for sustainability of reconciliation and building capacity) Resources can include both financial and non-financial resources including (staff and volunteer time, material resources, venue etc.)		
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Our church has allocated church resources for activities that promote reconciliation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures</b>		
	Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.		
	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 6 months:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response
	1. No discussion has taken place about what church resources should be allocated	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2. Some discussion has taken place about what church resources should be allocated, but no firm commitment has been made	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3. Church resources have been allocated for specific church service or community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	4. Church resources have been allocated within multiple program/ministry areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Church resources have been allocated within multiple program/ministry areas, with board or leadership commitment to periodically review and prioritise church resource allocation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

GUIDANCE NOTE			
Activity Statement	Why we ask this		
3.4 Our church has participated in training activities that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	This is a question about church participation in cultural training and the extent to which local cultural training is utilised. Local cultural training and/or experiences are desirable in the long term as they help to strengthen genuine relationships between church members and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.		
3.4	<b>Our church has participated in training activities that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures</b>		
	Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.		
	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 12 months:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response
	1. There has been no church participation in any training activities that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2. There has been some participation in training activities, provided for our church leaders and/or congregation, <b>not specific</b> to the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3. There has been some participation in training activities, provided for our church leaders and/or congregation, <b>specific</b> to the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	4. There has been church staff and/or leadership participation in external training activities, <b>specific</b> to the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. There has been church participation and coordination of external training activities, <b>specific</b> to the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander culture, inviting other churches and/or community groups to participate	<input type="checkbox"/>		



<b>GUIDANCE NOTE</b>			
<b>Activity Statement</b>	<b>Why we ask this</b>		
3.5 Our church has publicly acknowledged the culture and history of the traditional custodians of the land where the church is situated	This is a question that helps identify perceptions and attitudes towards traditional land ownership.		
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Our church has publicly acknowledged the culture and history of the traditional custodians of the land where the church is situated</b>		
	Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.		
	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 12 months:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response
	1. No Acknowledgement of Country performed within a church event or service		
	2. Acknowledgement of Country performed during a special event (i.e. National Reconciliation Week)		
	3. Acknowledgement of Country included at special events, relevant services and some official church meetings		
4. Acknowledgement of Country included at special events, relevant services and some official church meetings. Other forms of acknowledgement are also expressed i.e. Church Plaque, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander flags, Acknowledgement made through church's communications (i.e. newsletter, website)			
5. As above in 4, plus church leaders have met with the traditional custodians of the land where the church is located and have invited a representative to perform a welcome to country at an appropriate church event			

GUIDANCE NOTE		
Activity Statement	Why we ask this	
3.6 Church leaders have identified and encouraged church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	This is a question about church participation and whether congregational engagement with indigenous culture and reconciliation community events is encouraged within the church.	
<b>3.6 Church leaders have identified and encouraged church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures</b>  Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.	<b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 12 months:	<b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	1. Church leaders have not encouraged church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	
	2. Church leaders have occasionally encouraged church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	
	3. Church leaders have included in their program planning church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures	
	4. Church leaders have included in their program planning church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, providing volunteers or other resources	
5. Church leaders have included in their program planning church participation in community events that support reconciliation and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, providing volunteers or other resources. The church has also championed such events within its own denomination or with surrounding churches and/or community groups.		

GUIDANCE NOTE			
Activity Statement	Why we ask this		
3.7 Our church has identified and supported causes which foster the improvement of the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities	This is a question to see if the church is already supporting relevant causes to improve wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.		
3.7	<p><b>Our church has identified and supported causes which foster the improvement of the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities</b></p> <p>Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.</p>		
	<p><b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 12 months:</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p><b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response</p>
	1. Our church has not identified or supported any causes		
	2. Our church has identified a cause but is yet to agree on how to support this cause more broadly within the church		
	3. Our church has identified a cause, has the resources and operational plan to support it and has communicated this with the congregation		
	4. Our church has identified a cause, has the resources and operational plan to support it and has strong congregational "buy-in" (i.e. church volunteers and advocates)		
5. Our church has identified a cause, has the resources and operational plan to support it, has broad congregational support and participation and is now championing this cause within its own denomination or with surrounding churches and/or community groups.			

GUIDANCE NOTE		
Activity Statement	Why we ask this	
3.8 Our church has developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities	This question is asking about the church's intention to continue along the journey of reconciliation, using a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan	
3.8	<p><b>Our church has developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities</b></p> <p>Identify which statement below best matches your church's current activities. Tick one box only and provide details.</p>	
	<p><b>Descriptions:</b> Over the past 12 months:</p>	<p>✓</p> <p><b>Details:</b> Describe the activities that explain your response</p>
	1. Our church has not developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities and is not actively participating in activities from the Walk Alongside Program	
	2. Our church has not developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities but has begun to actively participating in activities from the Walk Alongside Program	
	3. Our church has developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities and has begun to actively participate in activities from the Walk Alongside Program	
	4. Our church has developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities and is exploring new activities which align with the Walk Alongside Program. The church is also proactively contributing feedback and learning insights to World Vision and other churches involved with the program	
5. Our church has developed a Walk Alongside Church Action Plan to support its reconciliation activities and is exploring new activities which align with the Walk Alongside Program. The church is also proactively contributing feedback and learning insights to World Vision and other churches involved with the program. The church is also championing the Walk Alongside program and/or Formal RAP Program within their denomination		

# Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey

## Part 4: Short Answer Questions

<b>GUIDANCE NOTE</b>	
<b>Short Answer</b>	<b>Why we ask this</b>
4.1 If you have used any of the Walk Alongside resources or participated in any of the activities referenced in the Walk Alongside Program what has been the most useful so far and why?	This is to find out what resources and churches are already using and plan to use and what activities they have already participated in, or are planning to participate in.
4.2 What resources or activities, if any, have not been useful to date from the toolkit and why?	This is to find out if there are resources or activities that are not being used or not found to be useful.
4.3 If you were asked to talk about the church's experience with using the toolkit, what would you say to others?	This helps us know what participating churches are likely to be communicating to others.
4.4 Do you have any other comments, clarifying questions or content suggestions in relation to this survey tool?	This will help us refine and improve the survey tool if necessary.

**4.1 If you have used any of the Walk Alongside resources or participated in any of the activities referenced in the Walk Alongside Program what has been the most useful so far and why?**

**4.2 What resources or activities, if any, have not been useful to date from the toolkit and why?**

**4.3 If you were asked to talk about the church's experience with using the toolkit, what would you say to others?**

**4.4 Do you have any other comments, clarifying questions or content suggestions in relation to this pilot survey tool?**

**Thank you for participating in the Walk Alongside Church Toolkit Survey.**

Please keep a copy of this completed survey to revisit when you complete the survey again after 12 months, to see if there have been any changes.

Information within this survey is confidential and will not be used for specific sharing or learning purposes unless your church's prior permission is obtained.

Please post your completed survey to:

**World Vision Australia  
Attention: Church Partnerships (Walk Alongside)  
GPO Box 399C  
Melbourne VIC 3001**

Alternatively, **you can scan and email your completed survey** to: [church@worldvision.com.au](mailto:church@worldvision.com.au)

A confirmation email will then be sent to you to indicate that your survey has been received by World Vision. If you are interested in finding out more about World Vision's work in Australia, please email [church@worldvision.com.au](mailto:church@worldvision.com.au)