



**From the Office of the
Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia**

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Ground-breaking family violence study launched

The Anglican Church of Australia is launching Australia's first national research into family violence within faith communities.

The National Anglican Family Violence Study will investigate and discuss the prevalence, experience and impact of family violence, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Philip Freier, announced today.

The study was suggested at the national church synod, or parliament, by Victoria's Reverend Tracy Lauersen, who is chairing the working group the synod set up.

Dr Freier, the Archbishop of Melbourne, said: "The Church has much to offer in terms of prevention and by helping victims but needs a better understanding of the nature of the violence in its own church communities."

Rev. Lauersen said Australian research into family violence in faith communities was severely lacking. "For the Church to be part of the broader cultural response of preventing violence and of ministering to those who experience it, we need to know the particular nature it takes and its prevalence in our own communities.

"The #MeToo movement, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and initiatives by organisations such as Our Watch have shone a light onto the unjust suffering of many, especially women who are nearly three times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner," Rev. Lauersen said.

The Church has chosen NCLS Research, which has been conducting empirical research into faith communities for more than 25 years in more than 20 denominations, to do the study.

For information, contact Rev. Tracy Lauersen at tracy.lauersen@gmail.com or on 0414 971 043; <https://anglican.org.au/our-work/family-violence/>