



Stats  
have  
Faces

## Handout 6

# Reflecting on the research

A small sample, we repeat, is rarely the big scientific problem. Interpretation is.

Stephen Thomas Ziliak

Data gathering is important, but it is even more important to reflect on the information collected and decide what action can be taken. This step in the *Stats have Faces* process is a time of reflection looking closely at what is currently going on and seeking for “clues” about where to focus our attention.

Reflection is a means of assisting us to explore thoughts and feelings, and to work through the information in an attempt to gain new understanding, fresh insights and self-awareness.

Always remember that *Stats have Faces*. This is about people not numbers. Remember too that God is already at work in your community and the challenge is to recognise where that is happening.

1. Take a look at the Queensland Local Area Statistical Report (Find the figures) and discuss:
  - What surprised you about this report?
  - What did you already suspect?
  - What particular things characterise your local community?
  - What challenges does the information present?
  - What extra information can you add to this from the Mapping your community, Exegetical walk and Identifying community assets exercises?
2. Take a look at your Congregation Profile Survey (Know your own) results and discuss:
  - What surprised you about this report?
  - What did you already suspect?
  - What particular things characterise your congregation?
  - What challenges does the information present?
  - Does your congregation have assets that don't show up in the survey?

# Handout 6 // Reflecting on the research

3. Reflecting on existing community connections:
  - With which groups in the community is your congregation already in relationship?
  - How do people from your congregation already connect with organisations in the community?
  
4. Putting it all together. Take some time to consider all the information you have collected. Don't think about needs (for now), but reflect upon the connections in your community.
  - What are the similarities and differences between the demographics of your congregation and your community?
  - What additional information does the Mapping your community and Identifying community assets exercises add to the demographic data?
  - Which community members have come to mind most as you looked at the data?
  - Which church members have come to mind?
  - Make a list of ways in which you, your church or the community might use the information which has been gathered.
  - What community services or groups are missing from your local community?
  - Are there any issues, people or groups that are overlooked?
  - What further information do you need?



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD