



FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA SURVEY

Participant information sheet

The Families in Australia Survey is conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) to find out about family life in Australia. Everyone, whether by birth or by choice is part of a family, and there is no one way to be part of a family. We value the wide diversity of relationships that form Australian families, so the survey is open to all Australians aged 18 years and over.

This is the third Families in Australia Survey. The information that you provide is valuable for improving our understanding of how families are faring now. You don't need to have taken part in earlier surveys to participate in this survey. More information about the Families in Australia project, including reports from previous surveys, can be found [here](#).

This survey, compared to previous ones, has a lesser focus on COVID, focusing more generally on family wellbeing and family characteristics. The survey asks about ways in which different families are managing in terms of their relationships, connections, the support they give and receive, and also their work and finances.

We want to share experiences of family life with decision makers in government and service providers. This may help them develop the supports that families need.

What does the research involve?

This research involves completion of a 20-minute online survey. You will be asked about different aspects of your life and your relationship with your family – those that you may live with and those you do not. We want to understand how different aspects of your life continue to be affected by COVID-19. This means we will ask you about:

- relationships with other family members, such as partners, children and grandchildren
- work
- education
- finances
- mental health and wellbeing.

We also want to know about what everyday life looks like for families continuing to adjust to COVID normal life. We will also ask about things like balancing work and caring responsibilities; and how families keep in touch with each other when they are not living together.

The survey will be open until 30 June 2021.

As a thank you for your time

Five randomly selected participants will be offered shopping vouchers (valued at \$500 each) if they complete the survey by 30 June 2021 and if they opt in to being considered for this at the conclusion of the survey.

The random selection for the vouchers will be conducted on 8 July 2021 and will be undertaken at the Australian Institute of Family Studies office, Level 4, 40 City Road, Southbank, Victoria. The selected participants will be notified by email. See [terms and conditions](#).

Who can participate?

Anyone currently living in Australia aged 18 years or older can take part in this survey. You don't need to be living with other family members. Your family is everyone you consider to be your family whether they are biological relatives or not, whether you live with them or not. We are interested to hear from all families.

What if I change my mind?

Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw at any point in the survey. If you do leave the survey part way through, we will use the information you have entered up until that point, unless you select 'exit and clear', which will erase your responses from our server.



Who will have access to my survey responses?

Only those who have been approved to use these data for the purposes of research about family life in Australia, including undertaking research on experiences during and after the COVID-19 pandemic will be allowed to access these data. Researchers will not have access to any personally identifying data.

The data will also be stored in the [Australian Data Archive](#) with all identifying information removed.

What will you do with my data?

We will look at your survey responses together with those from other people who answer the survey to explore family life in Australia, including considering the ongoing impact COVID-19 is having on the lives of families in Australia. We will do this through reports and presentations, including those accessible on the AIFS website.

No information that could identify your family or you as an individual will be contained in our reports.

This is the third Families in Australia Survey. Many respondents who participated in previous surveys chose to answer some additional questions that allow their survey responses to be linked across surveys. This linking allows analysis of changes in individual and family experiences without needing to collect and store any information that would identify an individual person.

The final data from the study will be stored securely at AIFS. The study data will be stored for the duration of the study, which is at least until September 2021, and then for a further seven years after that. All responses are confidential. Your contact information is stored securely and is removed from the survey dataset. Your survey responses are instead saved against a unique identifier.

What support is available during or after the survey?

Sometimes people feel upset when they are involved in research. If you would like to talk to someone for support with your family situation, please see our [resources page](#) for a list of support services and helplines. Some services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Privacy

AIFS takes your privacy seriously. If you have any further queries relating to our [Privacy Policy](#), or you have a problem or complaint, please contact us at aifs-privacy@aifs.gov.au. If you are not satisfied with our handling of your problem or complaint you may make a complaint to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

Do you have any concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of the study?

AIFS is committed to researcher integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. However, if you do have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the study, you may contact the AIFS Ethics Committee secretariat (ethicssecretariat@aifs.gov.au). The Ethics Committee secretariat is not connected with the research project and can facilitate a resolution to your concern in an impartial manner.

Where can I find out more?

More information about the study can be found on the [AIFS website](#), or contact AIFS via email at aifs-reception@aifs.gov.au.