



FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA SURVEY LIFE DURING COVID-19

Participant information sheet

The Australian Institute of Families (AIFS) would like to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of Australian families. Everyone is part of a family – whether it is by birth or by choice. It's not important to AIFS whether your family relationships are biological or not. We want to hear from you about how you are living with – or apart from – your family right now.

We are asking Australian families to tell us how their lives have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic. What challenges have you faced? What support would help right now? How have you adapted to the new ways of living? We want to share your experiences of family life with decisions 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 have been affected by COVID-19. This means we will ask about your experiences since the pandemic began with:

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

We also want to know about what everyday life looks like for families living with the COVID-19 restrictions. We will also ask about things like: balancing work and caring responsibilities; education; and how families keep in touch with each other when they are not living together.

The survey will be open until June 2020.

Who can participate?

Anyone currently living in Australia aged 18 years or older can take part in this survey. We want to hear from people living alone, couples with or without kids, grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters. Everyone is part of a family – whether it is by birth or by choice. We do not mind if the relationships are biological or not.

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?

All responses are confidential.

Only individuals [named on the research team](#) will have access to the survey data. No information that could identify your family or you as an individual will be contained in our reports.

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.

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 the impact COVID-19 is having on the lives of families in Australia. 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.

Only those who have been approved to use these data for the purposes of research will be allowed to access these data. The information you provide us with will only be used for the purpose of the Families in Australia: Life during COVID-19 project and cannot be used for any other reason without your permission.

The data will also be stored in the [Australian Data Archive](#) with all identifying information removed. However, other researchers will not be able to access this data.

Your contact information is stored securely and is removed from the survey dataset. Your survey responses are instead saved against a unique identifier.

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?

You can find more information about the study on the [project page](#), or email fia-survey@aifs.gov.au.