

# Appendix 1

## ATTITUDES TO CHILD SUPPORT

### Separated Parent Sample (Callbacks)

#### Informed consent

Good [afternoon/evening]. My name's [SAY NAME] and I'm calling from the Wallis Group on behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. May I please speak to [%target respondent's name]?

IF NECESSARY ADD: The Institute is a national, independent body established to monitor the wellbeing of Australian families.

IF UNCONTACTABLE, END INTERVIEW:

Thank you for your time and assistance.

We spoke to you about a year ago about parenting after divorce and you agreed at that time to being contacted for some further research. The Child Support Scheme is currently being reviewed, and we hope to include your views in the review process. This will take about 10 to 15 minutes.

Can we talk now?

1. Yes
2. No – make appointment
3. No – refused

IF REFUSED, SAY:

On behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, thanks for your time.

The information you provide remains strictly anonymous and confidential. If I come to any question you prefer not to answer, just let me know and I'll skip over it or you can stop at any time.

We can arrange the interview at a time to suit you – either on this number or a number of your choice. If you have any queries about this study, you can contact the Project Manager for the cost of a local call [1800 ... ..].

#### SECTION 1: General perceptions

I'd like to start by asking you how well you think the existing child support system is working.

DA1. Do you think that overall, the child support system is working well?

1. Yes
2. No
3. SOMETIMES (DON'T READ)
4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
5. REFUSED

DA2. Do you think that the child support system is "fair" for both parents?

1. Yes
2. No
3. SOMETIMES (DON'T READ)
4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
5. REFUSED

## SECTION 2: Attitudes to child support

I'd now like to ask you about whether you think child support should be paid under different situations. Let's start with the most common situation – where children live with their mother most of the time, and their father lives elsewhere.

- DB3. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his child or children should ALWAYS be made to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB1. Do you think MOST fathers would pay child support without any government involvement?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- DB4. Do you think the amount of child support that a father pays for his children should depend on:....(READ OUT)
1. How much HE earns
  2. How much the mother earns, or
  3. BOTH their incomes
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB6. ... And should the amount depend on the children's ages?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- DB5. If mothers are on government income support payments, should their government payments be reduced by the total amount of child support, just some of it, or should they be able to keep all of it?
1. Reduce by total child support
  2. Reduce by some of it
  3. Keep it all
  4. Can't Say
  5. Refused
- DB7. Do you think that if the father has ANOTHER child with a new partner, he should be allowed to pay less child support for the children he does not live with? This doesn't include step-children.
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB8. If the father has re-partnered and now has STEP-CHILDREN to support, should he be allowed to pay less child support for the children he does not live with?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB9. DELETED
- DB10. Suppose the mother remarries or starts living with a new partner. Should the father be expected to keep paying child support; stop paying; or should payment depend on the new partner's financial situation?
1. Continue to pay
  2. Stop paying
  3. Depends on financial situation
  4. Depends on other circumstances
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

- DB11. Do you think child support payments should just cover the basic costs of children OR should fathers who earn more, pay more than this?
1. Cost of children
  2. Father's income
  3. COMBINATION OF BOTH (DON'T READ)
  4. BASED ON EARNINGS OF FATHER AND MOTHER (DON'T READ)
  5. IT DEPENDS
  6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  7. REFUSED
- DB12. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his children should pay some child support even if his earnings are very low or he only receives government income support?
1. Yes
  2. No GO TO DB13
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ) GO TO DB13
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GO TO DB13
  5. REFUSED GO TO DB13
- DB2. What do you think should be the ABSOLUTE MINIMUM amount of child support that a father should pay regardless of his income or the number of children he is supporting? Would it be...[READ OUT]
1. Nothing
  2. \$5 a week
  3. \$10 a week
  4. \$15 a week
  5. \$20 a week
  6. Or some other amount
  7. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  8. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  9. REFUSED
- IF "SOME OTHER AMOUNT" (CODE 6 AT DB2), ASK:
- DB2b How much should the minimum be each week? \_\_\_\_\_
- DB13. And should there be a maximum amount of child support payable for high income fathers?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB14. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his children should FACE A PENALTY (such as a fine) if he fails to make his child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB15. Do you think a father should have to pay child support if he's NOT INTERESTED in having any contact with his children?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB16. What about if the mother MOVES INTERSTATE with the children. Should the father have to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

- DB17. And what if the mother moves OVERSEAS with the children. Do you think that a father should have to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB18. Should a father have to pay child support if he WANTS contact with his children but the mother is PREVENTING it?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DB19. Should child support be paid for a child aged 18 or over who is ... (READ OUT)
1. a full-time student still living at home
  2. a disabled child,
  3. both of these, or
  4. neither of these
  5. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  7. REFUSED
- DB20. When children OFTEN stay overnight with their father, should this be taken into account when calculating his child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS ON THE NUMBER OF NIGHTS (DON'T READ)
  4. IT DEPENDS ON OTHER THINGS (DON'T READ)
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: NEXT QU ASKS HOW OFTEN]

IF OVERNITES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (CODE 1, 3 or 4 AT DB20) ASK:

- DB21. What is the minimum number of overnight stays you think should be required before child support payments can be reduced?
- Response given as Nights per week
- Response given as Nights per fortnight
- Response given as Nights per month
- Response given as Nights per year
- NUMERIC RESPONSE \_\_\_\_\_ (ALLOW UP TO 300)  
(999 = Don't know)
- DB22. Should child support be reduced where a father has to set-up new housing specifically for his children to stay overnight?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

### SECTION 3: RESIDENT FATHERS

Now thinking of the less common situation where children live with their father for most of the time and their mother lives elsewhere.

- DC1. Do you think that a mother who does not usually live with her child or children should ALWAYS be made to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

- DC2. Do you think that a mother who does not live with her children should pay some child support even if her earnings are very low or she only receives government income support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DC3. Do you think a mother who does not usually live with her children should FACE A PENALTY (such as a fine) if she fails to make her child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DC4. Do you think a mother should have to pay child support if she's NOT INTERESTED in having any contact with her children?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DC5. Should a mother have to pay child support if she WANTS contact with her children but the father is PREVENTING it?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

#### SECTION 4: POLICY ISSUES

And finally, thinking about broader policy issues...

- DD1. When couples separate, do you think the main responsibility for financial support of their children should lie with the parents, the government, or both?
1. Parents
  2. Govt
  3. Both parents and government
  4. CAN'T SAY
  5. REFUSED
- DD2. Do you think the main priority of the Child Support Scheme should be towards: helping children, being "fair" for both parents, or reducing the amount the Government has to spend on benefits? (ACCEPT MULTIPLES)
1. Helping children
  2. Being fair for both parents
  3. Reducing government expenditure
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- DD3. DELETED
- DD4. DELETED
- DD5. Should child support payments be based on a percentage of the parent's income BEFORE tax or AFTER tax?
1. Before tax (GROSS)
  2. After tax (NET)
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

## Section 5: Demographics

Finally, to make sure that we have a true cross-section of people, I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself. We asked you some of these questions last time we spoke but your circumstances may have changed since then.

- DE1. What is your marital status? Are you currently ... (READ OUT)
1. Married GOTO DE4a
  2. In de facto relationship GOTO DE4a
  3. Separated (including trial separation)
  4. Divorced
  5. Widowed
  6. Never been married
  7. REFUSED GOTO DE4a

- DE2. Are you currently in an ongoing relationship with someone?
1. Yes
  2. No GOTO DE4a
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

- DE3. Do you live with that person?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

- DE4a. Are there any children under 18 living with you for at least 50% of the time?
1. Yes
  2. No GOTO DE4i
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GOTO DE4i
  4. REFUSED GOTO DE4i

- DE4b. How many? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO DE4i

IF 1 CHILD AND RESPONDENT NOT PARTNERED, ASK:

- DE4c. Is this your child?
1. Yes GOTO DE4i
  2. No GOTO DE4i
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- [Interviewer note: Include "adopted" children and biological children]

IF 1 CHILD AND RESPONDENT PARTNERED, ASK:

- DE4d. Was this child born to:
1. you and your current partner, GOTO DE4i
  2. you and a previous partner, or GOTO DE4i
  3. is this your partner's child? GOTO DE4i
  4. NONE OF THE ABOVE (DO NOT READ) GO TO DE4i
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

IF >1 CHILD & NOT PARTNERED ASK:

- DE4e. How many of these children are your children? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO DE4i

IF LIVING WITH A PARTNER, ASK:

- DE4f. How many of these children under 18 are children that you and your current partner have had together? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO DE4i

IF DE4b = DE4f, GO TO DE4i.  
ELSE CONTINUE

- DE4g. How many are YOUR children but NOT your partner's child? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO DE4i

IF DE4b = DE4g+DE4f, GO TO DE4i.  
ELSE CONTINUE

- DE4h. How many are YOUR PARTNER'S children but NOT your child? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99

ASK EVERYONE:

- DE4i. Do you have any children under 18 who live with their other parent for at least 50% of the time?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

IF PARTNERED, ASK:

- DE4j. Does your partner have any children under 18 who live with their other parent for at least 50% of the time?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

- DE5. Are you currently in paid-employment?

IF YES ASK: Is that full-time for 35 hours or more a week, or part-time?

1. Yes — Full-time
2. Yes – Part-time
3. No
4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
5. REFUSED

[Interviewer note: *If working more than one job, code total hrs*]

IF NOT IN PAID-WORK (CODE 3 AT DE5) ASK:

- DE5b. Are you currently looking for paid work?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

IF DE5b ANSWERED OR DE5 =2, ASK DE6  
ELSE GO TO DE7

- DE6. People often get income from a number of sources. Is your MAIN source of income ... (READ OUT)
1. Earnings
  2. Gov't income support
  3. Or something else
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

To better understand your circumstances, it be would useful to get an estimate of income.

- DE7. What is your HOUSEHOLD'S TOTAL annual income from all sources before tax? Please include all wages, salaries, pensions, family benefits, child support, and any other income. For a year, do you think it would be ... READ OUT
1. Less than \$20,000
  2. \$20,000 to less than \$50,000
  3. \$50,000 to less than \$80,000
  4. \$80,000 to less than \$100,000
  5. \$100,000 or more
  6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  7. REFUSED

DE8. DELETED

DE9. DELETED

DE10. DELETED

- DE11. Last time we spoke about (%name target partner). Would you describe your current relationship with (%name target partner) as co-operative, distant, lots of conflict or fearful?
1. Co-operative
  2. Distant
  3. Lots of conflict
  4. Fearful
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

- DE14. Are you CURRENTLY PAYING OR RECEIVING any REGULAR child support for any children? (By regular payments we mean regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments).
1. Yes PAY
  2. Yes RECEIVE
  3. Yes — PAY & RECEIVE
  4. No
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED
- DE16. Finally: Is there anything that you'd like to see changed about the Child Support Scheme as it currently stands?
1. Yes
  2. No GO TO THANKS
  3. Don't know enough about scheme to comment GO TO THANKS
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GO TO THANKS
  5. REFUSED GO TO THANKS
- DE16b. What's the MAIN change you would make? \_\_\_\_\_

**Permission to re-contact**

THANKS Thank you. That's the end of our child support questions.

**INTERVIEWER NOTE:**

IF RESPONDENT INDICATES THAT THEY HAVE ISSUES THEY WOULD LIKE TO TALK THROUGH IN MORE DETAIL ASK DE17 – ELSE RECORD NO AT DE17

- DE17 Are there particular issues you would like to raise with one of the principal researchers?
1. Yes
  2. No GO TO DF1
- DE17a We'll get someone to call you back. Is this the best number to contact you on? (DISPLAY NUMBER)
1. Yes GO TO CLOSE
  2. No GO TO DF3
- DF1. But, finally, could I have your permission to call you back at some time in the future? Researchers at the Institute may want to talk further with some people.
1. Yes
  2. No GO TO CLOSE
- DF2. Is this the best number to contact you on? (DISPLAY NUMBER)
1. Yes GO TO CLOSE
  2. No
- DF3. NEW PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLOSE:** On behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies I would like to thank you very much for all you have done in this study. If you would like further information about this work please call 1800 .....



## Appendix 2

# ATTITUDES TO CHILD SUPPORT

## General Population Sample

### Informed consent

Good [afternoon/evening]. My name's [SAY NAME] and I'm calling from the Wallis Group on behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

We're conducting an important study about child support. May I please speak to the youngest male in the household aged between 18 and 64?

IF NO MALES AVAILABLE – ASK FOR THE YOUNGEST FEMALE (18-64) AT HOME

IF NECESSARY ADD: The Institute is a national, independent body established to monitor the wellbeing of Australian families.

### WHEN SPEAKING TO SELECTED RESPONDENT

We're conducting a short survey about people's views on financial support for children after divorce or separation. The Child Support Scheme is currently being reviewed, and your views will help with this review. This short interview will take about 10 minutes.

IF NECESSARY ADD: We want to speak to people regardless of their marital status or whether they have children

Can we talk now?

1. Yes
2. No – make appointment
3. No – refused

IF REFUSED, SAY:

On behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, thanks for your time.

The information you provide remains strictly anonymous and confidential. If I come to any question you prefer not to answer, just let me know and I'll skip over it or you can stop at any time.

We can arrange the interview at a time to suit you – either on this number or a number of your choice.

If you have any queries about this study, you can contact the Project Manager for the cost of a local call [1800 ... ..].

RECORD SEX OF RESPONDENT (DO NOT ASK):

1. Male
2. Female

### SECTION 1: General perceptions

Child support refers to financial support paid by one parent (usually the father) to the other parent to help support any children that they're not living with.

PA1. Can I start by asking you whether you've ever heard of the Child Support Scheme or the Child Support Agency?

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Yes                  |                     |
| 2. No                   | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |
| 3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |
| 4. REFUSED              | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |

PA2. Have you ever had any contact with the Child Support Agency?

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Yes                  |                     |
| 2. No                   | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |
| 3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |
| 4. REFUSED              | GO TO PRE SECTION 2 |

PRE SECTION 2:

Just to clarify: Under the Child Support Scheme, parents not living with their children pay a certain proportion of their income to the other parent – depending on the number of children they have.

## SECTION 2: Attitudes to child support

I'd now like to ask you about whether you think child support should be paid under different situations. Let's start with the most common situation after separation – where children live with their mother most of the time, and their father lives elsewhere.

- PB3. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his child or children should ALWAYS be made to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB1. Do you think MOST fathers would pay child support without any government involvement?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- PB4. Do you think the amount of child support that a father pays should depend on:... (READ OUT)
1. How much HE earns
  2. How much the mother earns, or
  3. BOTH their incomes
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB6. ... And should the amount depend on the children's ages?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- PB5. If mothers are on government income support payments, should their government payments be reduced by the total amount of child support, just some of it, or should they be able to keep all of it?
1. Reduce by total child support
  2. Reduce by some of it
  3. Keep it all
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB7. Do you think that if the father has ANOTHER child with a new partner, he should be allowed to pay less child support for the children he does not live with? This doesn't include step-children.
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB8. If the father has re-partnered and now has STEP-CHILDREN to support, should he be allowed to pay less child support for the children he does not live with?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB9. DELETED
- PB10. Suppose the mother remarries or starts living with a new partner. Should the father be expected to keep paying child support; stop paying; or should payment depend on the new partner's financial situation?
1. Continue to pay
  2. Stop paying
  3. Depends on financial situation
  4. Depends on other circumstances
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

- PB11. Do you think child support payments should just cover the basic costs of children OR should fathers who earn more, pay more than this?
1. Cost of children
  2. Father's income
  3. COMBINATION OF BOTH (DON'T READ)
  4. BASED ON EARNINGS OF FATHER AND MOTHER (DON'T READ)
  5. IT DEPENDS
  6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  7. REFUSED
- PB12. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his children should pay some child support even if his earnings are very low or he only receives government income support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- GO TO PB13  
GO TO PB13  
GO TO PB13  
GO TO PB13
- PB2. What do you think should be the ABSOLUTE MINIMUM amount of child support that a father should pay regardless of his income or the number of children he is supporting? Would it be...[READ OUT]
1. Nothing
  2. \$5 a week
  3. \$10 a week
  4. \$15 a week
  5. \$20 a week
  6. Or some other amount
  7. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  8. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  9. REFUSED
- IF "SOME OTHER AMOUNT" (CODE 6 AT PB2), ASK:
- PB2b How much should the minimum be each week? \_\_\_\_\_
- PB13. And should there be a maximum amount of child support payable for high income fathers?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB14. Do you think a father who does not usually live with his children should FACE A PENALTY (such as a fine) if he fails to make his child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
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- PB15. Do you think a father should have to pay child support if he's NOT INTERESTED in having any contact with his children?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB16. What about if the mother MOVES INTERSTATE with the child or children. Should the father have to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB17. And what about if the mother moves OVERSEAS with the children. Should the father have to pay child support?
1. Yes
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- PB18. Do you think a father should have to pay child support if he WANTS contact with his children but the mother is PREVENTING it?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PB19. Should child support be paid for a child aged 18 or over who is ... (READ OUT)
1. a full-time student still living at home
  2. a disabled child,
  3. both of these, or
  4. neither of these
  5. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  7. REFUSED
- PB20. When children OFTEN stay overnight with their father, should this be taken into account when calculating his child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS ON THE NUMBER OF NIGHTS (DON'T READ)
  4. IT DEPENDS ON OTHER THINGS (DON'T READ)
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED

[INTERVIEWER NOTE: NEXT QU ASKS HOW OFTEN]

IF OVERNITES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (CODE 1, 3 or 4 AT PB20) ASK:

- PB21. What is the minimum number of overnight stays you think should be required before child support payments can be reduced?
- Response given as Nights per week  
 Response given as Nights per fortnight  
 Response given as Nights per month  
 Response given as Nights per year
- NUMERIC RESPONSE \_\_\_\_\_ (ALLOW UP TO 300)  
 (999 = Don't know)
- PB22. Should child support be reduced where a father has to set-up new housing specifically for his children to stay overnight?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

### SECTION 3: RESIDENT FATHERS

Now thinking of the less common situation where children live with their father for most of the time and their mother lives elsewhere

- PC1. Do you think that a mother who does not usually live with her child or children should ALWAYS be made to pay child support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PC2. Do you think a mother who does not usually live with her children should pay some child support even if her earnings are very low or she only receives government income support?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

- PC3. Do you think a mother who does not usually live with her children should FACE A PENALTY (such as a fine) if she fails to make her child support payments?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PC4. Do you think a mother should have to pay child support if she's NOT INTERESTED in having any contact with her children?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PC5. Should a mother have to pay child support if she WANTS contact with her children but the father is PREVENTING it?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. IT DEPENDS (DON'T READ)
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED

#### SECTION 4: POLICY ISSUES

And finally, thinking about broader policy issues...

- PD1. When couples separate, do you think the main responsibility for financial support of their children should lie with the parents, the government, or both?
1. Parents
  2. Govt
  3. Both parents and government
  4. CAN'T SAY
  5. REFUSED
- PD2. Do you think that the main priority of the Child Support Scheme should be towards: helping children, being "fair" for both parents, or reducing the amount the Government has to spend on benefits? (ACCEPT MULTIPLES)
1. Helping children
  2. Being fair for both parents
  3. Reducing government expenditure
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  5. REFUSED
- PD3. DELETED
- PD4. DELETED
- PD5. Should child support payments be based on a percentage of the parent's income BEFORE tax or AFTER tax?
1. Before tax (GROSS)
  2. After tax (NET)
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

#### Section 5: Demographics

Finally, to make sure that we have a true cross-section of people, I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself.

P1. How old are you? |\_|\_|

IF REFUSED: Well, could you tell me approximately? Are you (READ OUT)

1. 18-24
2. 25-34
3. 35-44
4. 45-54
5. 55-64
6. REFUSED

- P2. What is the highest level of education or training you have completed?
1. Year 9 or below
  2. Year 10, form 4, intermediate
  3. Year 11, form 5, leaving
  4. Year 12, form 6, matriculation, HSC
  5. Trade/apprenticeship
  6. Certificate (business college, TAFE)
  7. Diploma (business college, TAFE)
  8. Degree (bachelor)
  9. Post-graduate (PhD, masters, post-grad dip.)
  10. Other (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
  11. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  12. REFUSED
- PE1. What is your marital status? Are you currently ... READ OUT
1. Married GOTO PE4a
  2. In de facto relationship GOTO PE4a
  3. Separated (including trial separation)
  4. Divorced
  5. Widowed
  6. Never been married
  7. REFUSED GOTO PE4a
- PE2. Are you currently in an ongoing relationship with someone?
1. Yes
  2. No GOTO PE4a
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- PE3. Do you live with that person?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- PE4a. Are there any children under 18 living with you for at least 50% of the time?
1. Yes
  2. No GOTO PE4i
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GOTO PE4i
  4. REFUSED GOTO PE4i
- IF YES ASK:
- PE4b. How many? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO PE4i
- IF 1 CHILD AND RESPONDENT NOT PARTNERED, ASK:
- PE4c. Is this your child?
1. Yes GOTO PE4i
  2. No GOTO PE4i
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED
- [Interviewer note: Include "adopted" children and biological children]
- IF 1 CHILD AND RESPONDENT PARTNERED, ASK:
- PE4d. Was this child born to:
1. you and your current partner, GOTO PE4i
  2. you and a previous partner, or GOTO PE4i
  3. is this your partner's child? GOTO PE4i
  4. NONE OF THE ABOVE (DO NOT READ) GOTO PE4i
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED
- IF >1 CHILD & NOT PARTNERED ASK:
- PE4e. How many of these children are your children? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO PE4i
- IF LIVING WITH A PARTNER, ASK:
- PE4f. How many of these children under 18 are children that you and your current partner have had together? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO PE4i

IF PE4b = PE4f, GOTO PE4i.  
ELSE CONTINUE

PE4g. How many are YOUR children but not your partner's child? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99 GOTO PE4i

IF PE4b = PE4g+PE4f, GOTO PE4i.  
ELSE CONTINUE

PE4h. How many are YOUR PARTNER'S children but not your child? |\_|\_|  
CODE REFUSED AS 99

ASK EVERYONE:

PE4i. Do you have any children under 18 who live with their other parent for at least 50% of the time?

1. Yes
2. No
3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
4. REFUSED

IF PARTNERED, ASK:

PE4j. Does your partner have any children under 18 who live with their other parent for at least 50% of the time?

1. Yes
2. No
3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
4. REFUSED

PE5. Are you currently in paid-employment?

IF YES ASK: Is that full-time for 35 hours or more a week, or part-time?

1. Yes — Full-time
2. Yes – Part-time
3. No
4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
5. REFUSED

[Interviewer note: *If working more than one job, code total hrs*]

IF NOT IN PAID-WORK (CODE 3 AT PE5) ASK:

PE5b. Are you currently looking for paid work?

1. Yes
2. No
3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
4. REFUSED

IF PE5b ANSWERED OR PE5 =2, ASK PE6  
ELSE GO TO PE7

PE6. People often get income from a number of sources. Is your MAIN source of income ... (READ OUT)?

1. Earnings
2. Gov't income support
3. Or something else
4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
5. REFUSED

To better understand your circumstances, it be would useful to get an estimate of income.

PE7. What is your HOUSEHOLD'S TOTAL annual income from all sources before tax? Please include all wages, salaries, pensions, family benefits, child support, and any other income.

For a year, do you think it would be ... READ OUT

1. Less Than \$20,000
2. \$20,000 to less than \$50,000
3. \$50,000 to less than \$80,000
4. \$80,000 to less than \$100,000
5. \$100,000 or more
6. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
7. REFUSED

PE8. DELETED

PE9. DELETED

PE10. DELETED

IF RESPONDENT HAS CHILD <18 IN HH WITH CHILD'S OTHER PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE, OR HAS A CHILD <18 LIVING WITH OTHER PARENT (DERIVE VAR FROM PE4 SERIES) CONTINUE ELSE GO TO PRE PE16:

- PE11. Would you describe your current relationship with your (child's/children's) (mother/father) who lives elsewhere as co-operative, distant, lots of conflict or fearful.
1. Co-operative
  2. Distant
  3. Lots of conflict
  4. Fearful
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  6. REFUSED
- [Interviewer note: If more than one such parent, refer to the parent with the youngest child]
- PE14. Are you CURRENTLY PAYING OR RECEIVING any REGULAR child support for any children? (By regular payments we mean regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments).
1. Yes PAY GO TO PE15
  2. Yes RECEIVE GO TO PE15
  3. Yes — PAY & RECEIVE GO TO PE15
  4. No
  5. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GO TO PE15
  6. REFUSED GO TO PE15
- PE14a. Have you EVER paid or received any REGULAR child support for any children?
1. Yes
  2. No
  3. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW
  4. REFUSED

PRE PE16 IF HAVE HEARD OF THE CHILD SUPPORT SCHEME OR CSA (CODE 1 AT PA1) ASK:

- PE16. Finally: Is there anything that you'd like to see changed about the Child Support Scheme as it currently stands?
1. Yes
  2. No GO TO THANKS
  3. Don't know enough about scheme to comment GO TO THANKS
  4. CAN'T SAY/DON'T KNOW GO TO THANKS
  5. REFUSED GO TO THANKS

PE16b. PCSCHNG. What is the MAIN change you would make? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Permission to re-contact

THANKS: That's the end of our questions. On behalf of the Australian Institute of Family Studies I would like to thank you very much for all you have done in this study.

ASK EVERYONE:

**VALIDATION** Just in case my supervisor needs to check the validity of this interview, can I have your first name?

1. Given - Record first name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Refused GO TO CLOSE

**CLOSE:** Thank you once again for your time and assistance. We will keep your name and phone number together with your survey answers for about three weeks. After we have processed the information we will delete your contact details and will no longer be able to identify you or your own responses. If you would like further information about this study please call The Institute of Family Studies on 1800 . . . . .