



FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA SURVEY TOWARDS COVID NORMAL

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 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 Families in Australia Survey: *Towards COVID Normal* follows the first *Life During COVID-19* survey in May-June 2020. More information about the Families in Australia project, including reports from the first survey, can be found [here](#).

This survey will run November-December 2020. We are asking Australians 18 years and over to tell us about how they and their families are going. While we may be heading towards a time that might be described as 'COVID normal', this remains a time of uncertainty in which there can be rapid changes in restrictions faced across the country. How has family, social and daily life changed? What challenges do you and your family continue to face? And what support would help right now?

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 an online survey. The survey will take 20-25 minutes to complete, but may take a little less or more depending on your circumstances. You will be asked about different aspects of your life and your relationship with your family - those that you 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 about your experiences since the beginning of the year, including:

- relationships with other family members
- work

- education
- finances
- mental health and wellbeing.

We also want to know about what everyday life looks like for families continuing to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will 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 mid-December 2020.

As a thank you for your time

Five randomly selected participants will be offered shopping vouchers (valued at \$500 each) if they opt into the random draw at the conclusion of the survey.

The selected participants will be notified by email. See [terms and conditions](#) on page 3.

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 in hearing 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 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 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 second wave of the Families in Australia Survey. Many respondents who participated in wave 1 of this survey chose to answer some additional questions that allow their survey responses to be linked across waves. 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 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.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY INTO A PRIZE DRAW

1. The competition is being run by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) ABN 64 001 053 079, Level 4, 40 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006, Australia.
2. By entering the competition connected to the research project named in the attached Participant Information Sheet, participants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.
3. To enter the competition, the entrant must enter a response to the Families in Australia: *Towards COVID Normal* survey.
4. Entry to the competition is free. Entrants will be responsible for all costs associated with entering the competition, which may include costs associated with accessing the internet.
5. Entrants may only enter the competition once.
6. Each entry is assigned a unique and sequential identifying number, and a random number generator will be used to randomly select five numbers in the draw. Those numbers will identify five participants from the database.
7. The first **five** entries drawn randomly will each receive a \$500 shopping voucher. The voucher is not transferable, refundable, exchangeable, and cannot be taken as cash.
8. The selected participants will be contacted within two (2) days of the draw, by the email address or the phone number supplied by the participant on their entry.
9. If a selected participant does not respond to claim the voucher within twenty eight (28) days of the draw, a redraw will be conducted within thirty five (35) days of the original draw date, with the same method. Redraws will continue in the same manner until all vouchers have been claimed by selected participants. The vouchers will be mailed electronically to the selected participants using contact information provided by them. AIFS will confirm the best mailing address during contact with these participants.
10. By entering the competition, the entrant agrees that they are:
 - a. aged 18 years and over, and
 - b. not employees of AIFS or immediate family members of employees of AIFS.
11. AIFS accepts no responsibility in any manner for any loss or damage incurred, including any injury to participants or any other persons related to participation in this competition or the prize.
12. AIFS' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
13. Personal information provided by an entrant to AIFS for the purpose of entering the Competition will be collected, used and disclosed in accordance with AIFS Privacy Statement. AIFS' Privacy Policy is available at aifs.gov.au/aifs-privacy-policy. Personal information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will not be used or otherwise disclosed to any third party other than according to the privacy statement and these Terms and Conditions.