

**Thank you so much for taking part in  
Growing Up in Australia  
— we really appreciate it!**

We want you to know that the information you give is becoming more and more helpful in improving the lives of children and families in Australia. Your continuing participation helps us answer important questions about children's health, wellbeing and development.

### What's new?

We have introduced some changes that we hope you will find interesting and may also help save you some time, as we know life can be very busy for families with children.

- The main face-to-face interview will continue; however, we will give you the option to do part of it during our initial phone call. We would like to ask some questions about changes to your household, work and your child's education during our call, and we expect that this will take about 10–15 minutes. We hope you will take up this option.
- Instead of a paper questionnaire, we will be asking you to answer the questions on a laptop computer while the interviewer works with your child.
- This year, you will not be asked to complete the time use diaries.

We will again be asking for your consent to contact your child's teacher. Last time, over 80% of teachers responded, giving us very valuable information about children's lives and achievements at school.

### Are you moving?

Every participant in the study is irreplaceable, so you are an important part of this national study of childhood. Please take the time to tell us if you move house or your contact details change:

- Call us for free (excluding from mobile phones) on: **1800 005 508** or
- Email us at: [<growingup@abs.gov.au>](mailto:growingup@abs.gov.au)



The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

Conducted in partnership between the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with advice provided by a consortium of leading researchers.

[<www.aifs.gov.au/growingup>](http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup)



The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

## For parents



W4P

Eleni  
9 years

[www.aifs.gov.au/growingup](http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup)

## For children aged 6–7 years

For the first time, the interviewer will ask your child a few questions about how they like school and how they feel in general. These are the same questions we asked the children in the older cohort when they were aged 6–7 years, and this part of the study went very well. The interviewer will also be doing activities with your child, similar to the ones he/she did last time.

### Your consent to access NAPLAN and AEDI results

As you may know, children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 undertake the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (known as NAPLAN) at school. At the next interview, we will ask for your consent to access your child's NAPLAN results.

In 2009, teachers completed the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) to assess the development of Australian children in their first year at school. We will also ask for your consent to access your child's AEDI results.

You can find out more by looking at the NAPLAN and AEDI websites:

<[www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)>

<[www.rch.org.au/aedi](http://www.rch.org.au/aedi)>



## For children aged 10–11 years

### Before the interviewer visits you

There are some exciting new activities for your child to do this time, including filling out their own time use diary. We have sent a separate letter to your child, explaining how to fill in the diary, along with the diary, a pen and stickers.

The diary is to be completed by your child on **the day before your home visit**. You are welcome to help your child with their diary.

### During the home visit

The interviewer will talk to your child about their time use diary and enter the information into the interviewer's computer.

Your child will also be answering questions using a laptop computer and headphones so he/she can hear the questions as well as read them on the screen. As before, the questions will include topics such as their feelings about themselves, school, friends, family and their community.

### New measurements for your child

We would like to take two new physical measurements to help us get a better picture of the health of children in Australia.

With you and your child's consent, we will:

- measure your child's body fat percentage using the same scales that are used to measure your child's weight; and
- for children aged 10–11 years, measure blood pressure using a standard monitor. This involves placing a cuff on your child's arm, which fills with air (becoming a little tight) before quickly deflating.

### Your privacy

Your privacy is important to us. Any information you provide will remain absolutely confidential—it will never be used in any way that identifies you, your child or your family. Only the combined results of study participants are discussed and published. Strict procedures are followed to ensure that only authorised people have access to the information you provide, and all the interviewers, researchers and others involved must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

### Including the views of your child's other parent

Children live in different family situations and some parents do not live together. The study wants to gain a full picture of children's development, so getting information from both parents about their interactions with their child is important.

If you are in this situation, we will ask you to confirm or provide contact details for the child's other parent. To maintain confidentiality, another interviewer will conduct a telephone interview with that parent. Any information you provide can not and will not be passed on to the other parent.

In Wave 3, we interviewed over 70% of these parents, a wonderful response.

