

Including the views of your teenager's other parent

Growing Up in Australia recognises the fact that teenagers live in different family situations and some parents do not live together.

If you do not live with your teenager's other parent, we will ask you to confirm or provide their contact details. To maintain confidentiality, a different Interviewer will conduct the interview with your teenager's other parent. Any information you provide will not be passed on to him or her.

Teacher consent

We will again ask for your consent to contact your teenager's English teacher. Over 80 per cent of teachers responded last time, which provided valuable information to the study.

How the information collected is used

Australian and international researchers from fields such as education, psychology, psychiatry, medicine, economics and sociology use the data.

Data from *Growing Up in Australia* is also used internationally to compare teenage development cross-culturally. Other countries with longitudinal studies include England, Ireland, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, France and Germany.

To find out more about the data and how it is being used, please contact:

Website: www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au

Email: growingup@updatedetails.growingupinaustralia.gov.au

Phone: 1800 005 508 freecall (except from mobile phones)



The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children



Are you moving?

If you have moved, are planning to move, or will be away overseas for a long period of time, please let us know by:

Email:

growingup@updatedetails.growingupinaustralia.gov.au

Phone: 1800 005 508 freecall (except from mobile phones)

Your privacy

Your privacy is important to us. 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 comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*. If the Interviewer identifies any risk of serious harm to the child outside of the formal interview questions, the Interviewer may report it, in line with the Act. Similarly, if the study child discloses outside of the formal interview questions, that they are at risk of immediate self-harm, a counsellor attached to the study may be contacted.

Further information on privacy in relation to the *Growing Up in Australia* study and the *Growing Up in Australia* Privacy Statement can be found at: www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au/participants/privacy.html, or by calling 1800 005 508 freecall (excluding mobile phones).

The study is conducted as a partnership between the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with advice provided by a consortium of leading researchers.



The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children

Information

for

Parents



1800 005 508

www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au



Your valuable contribution to Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children is greatly appreciated!

The study would not be possible without your input. The information you provide is increasingly important to the government in improving the lives of teenagers and families across Australia.

Your next interview

Similar to last time, we will ask you to complete part of your interview over the phone. We expect that this will take about seven minutes. You will also have a face-to-face interview, where your Interviewer will ask you some questions directly and then you will answer some questions on a notebook computer.

Your teenager's interview

It is important that *Growing Up in Australia* captures as much information as we can about teenagers' wellbeing, the settings in which young people are developing and the activities they are doing.

Each interview we include new questions that capture common experiences or activities for children and teenagers at particular ages. These are age appropriate and are selected by experts in the field of child and adolescent development. Most of the questions have been asked of adolescents in other Australian and international studies. Your teenager may have also covered these topics at school as part of the school curriculum.

We plan to ask about the following topics in your teenager's interview. Whilst we know that some of these topics may appear less relevant to some teenagers, it is important to know about those who participate in these activities, as well as those who do not.

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING

Emotional wellbeing

- Self-esteem and emotions
- Feelings of stress, anxiety or depression
- Self-harm and suicide
- Help seeking

Learning

- Awards and recognition
- Parental involvement in learning

Physical health

- Health behaviours/routines
- Weight management behaviours
- Height, weight, body fat and waist measurements
- Cigarette and alcohol use
- Illicit drug use
- Puberty

WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING

Family interactions and wellbeing

- Parent/child relationships
- Non-resident parent/child relationships
- Caring for others

Other areas of their lives

- Religion and spirituality
- Use of technology
- Out-of-school activities
- Time spent unsupervised
- Anti-social behaviour

Peers

- Friendships and friends' characteristics
- Bullying
- Boyfriend/girlfriend
- Sexual behaviour and feelings



School

- Attendance and absenteeism
- Enjoyment and belonging

Work and career

- Attitudes towards work and family
- Current work experiences and career aspirations
- Parent's work

As always if your teenager doesn't want to answer a question they can skip it. We will also give your teenager a youth services card at the end of the interview.

Medicare Consent Form

This year we will also ask your teenager to sign a Medicare consent form. When he/she was younger, you gave consent for his/her Medicare data to be accessed. Now that your teenager is 14 to 15 years old it is a requirement of Medicare that we obtain his/her consent to access their data.

By signing the Medicare consent form, your teenager will authorise the Department of Human Services to provide their Medicare, and/or their Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme claims information, and/or their current address details to *Growing Up in Australia*.

As always, the data will be treated confidentially, and no information will be included in the dataset that would enable individual children to be identified. Further, only trends for groups of children will be reported using this data. Consent for this data access can be withdrawn at any stage.

If your teenager has a Medicare card, please have it available when the Interviewer visits your home. Otherwise please have available the family card on which your teenager is listed.

