

## Do I have to give consent?

Giving your consent is voluntary, which means it is completely up to you. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your interviewer.

## Can I withdraw my consent?

You can withdraw your consent to link your data at any stage by:

**Calling:** 1800 005 508

**Emailing:** [info@growingupinaustralia.gov.au](mailto:info@growingupinaustralia.gov.au)

**Writing to** (no postage stamp required):

*Growing Up in Australia*, Reply Paid GPO Box 2282, Melbourne VIC 3001

Any data linked before your withdrawal will continue to be used and form part of the *Growing Up in Australia* study.

If you withdraw from the study, we will continue to link to any data you have consented to until you withdraw your consent for the linkage.

## How is my privacy protected?

Your personal information will be handled in the strictest confidence in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles.

Strict procedures are followed by all partner agencies and researchers to ensure that all information collected is kept strictly confidential. Data released to researchers or policy makers is de-identified, and only combined results (an aggregate) are published.

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: [growingupinaustralia.gov.au/privacy-ethics](http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au/privacy-ethics) or by calling **1800 005 508**.

## Want more information?

If you would like more information on the *Growing Up in Australia* study, please:

**Visit:** [growingupinaustralia.gov.au](http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au)

**Call:** 1800 005 508

You can view the documents relating to data linkage on our website, [growingupinaustralia.gov.au/data-linkage](http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au/data-linkage) or by scanning here:



*Growing Up in Australia* has been approved by the Australian Institute of Family Studies Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee ensures that the *Growing Up in Australia* study meets the ethical standards outlined in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. If you have any ethical concerns with the conduct of the study, you may contact the AIFS Ethics Committee Secretariat on (03) 9214 7888 or [ethicssecretariat@aifs.gov.au](mailto:ethicssecretariat@aifs.gov.au)

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Institute of Family Studies acknowledges the traditional Country throughout Australia on which we gather, live, work and stand. We acknowledge all Traditional Custodians, their Elders past, present and future, and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea and rivers.



ROY  
MORGAN



DLB23M10



1800 005 508



[growingupinaustralia.gov.au](http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au)



[info@growingupinaustralia.gov.au](mailto:info@growingupinaustralia.gov.au)



# Data linkage

*Growing Up in Australia:*  
The Longitudinal study of Australian Children



## What is data linkage?

Data linkage brings together information from several data sources to produce a more comprehensive picture of what has been happening in your life.

Linked data enriches and supplements *Growing Up in Australia* survey data. It provides researchers with credible information on a wide range of medical, education and social service use that they otherwise wouldn't have access to. For example, when combined with demographic, social and health information in *Growing Up in Australia*:

- Researchers can determine the extent to which children with chronic health conditions achieve lower levels of literacy and numeracy in NAPLAN than their peers who do not have health conditions. We can also examine the effectiveness of the Medicare scheme in reducing the effect of poor health on educational achievement.
- Information on parent welfare payments obtained from Centrelink can be used to examine the impact of payments on education and employment outcomes of children. This helps us understand whether policies, such as welfare payments, are addressing intergenerational disadvantage.

Linking your responses with existing data also means your overall interview may be shorter because we can ask fewer questions.

## What data is being linked?

The *Growing Up in Australia* study asks about a range of topics including your education, employment, and wellbeing. To enhance this information, this year we are seeking permission to link:

- data on your Higher Education (university) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) studies, and
- Centrelink data (for 19-21 year olds).

Strict privacy policies, protocols and procedures are in place to ensure the security of the data and the confidentiality of individuals.

## Linking your university and VET data

We are seeking your permission to link your *Growing Up in Australia* data to Higher Education (university) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects or courses that you have done, are doing or might do in the future. You may have done VET subjects at school as part of your senior secondary certificate, as part of your apprenticeship or traineeship, or through another training organisation.

**Even if you are not studying now or planning to do any university or vocational study in the future, we would still appreciate your permission to link to any future data in case your situation changes.**

Having this type of data can help build better programs for future generations. For example, researchers may look into the types of educational opportunities that are available to those living in rural and remote areas of Australia.

Your higher education data would be released to the study by the Department of Education. Your VET data would be released to the study by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), the national body responsible for Vocational Education data.

*A unique linking ID is used when linking the data so that the external organisations that provide your university and VET data cannot connect your personal information to your Growing Up in Australia survey data.*

**If you consent for *Growing Up in Australia* to link your university data<sup>1</sup> and VET data<sup>1</sup> to your survey responses, *Growing Up in Australia* will ask you to provide your Unique Student Identifier (USI).<sup>2</sup>**

### If you know your USI:

*Growing Up in Australia* will provide your USI and personal details such as name, date of birth and sex to the Department of Education<sup>3</sup> who will use this information to retrieve your **university records**. Your university records will then be provided to the *Growing Up in Australia* study team who will then add this information to your survey responses for approved researchers to use. **Data users will not have access to your USI or any of your personal information.**

*Growing Up in Australia* will provide your USI and personal details such as name, date of birth and sex to the Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar<sup>3</sup> to verify your USI. The Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar will then send your USI to NCVER, who will use it to retrieve your **VET data**. NCVER will send your VET data to the *Growing Up in Australia* study team, who will then add this information to your survey responses for approved researchers to use. **Data users will not have access to your USI or any of your personal information.**

- 1 This includes higher education undertaken at non-university higher education institutions (e.g. private providers).
- 2 A USI is a 10 digit reference number given to students participating in a nationally recognised training course in Australia. A USI gives you easy access to all your training records. For more information, visit the USI webpage: [usi.gov.au](http://usi.gov.au)
- 3 Your personal details are handled separately from your educational attainment data and are used to establish a link with your USI. After links are established, matching educational records are extracted anonymously using the USI.

**It's ok if you do not know your USI.** *Growing Up in Australia* will provide just your personal details (e.g. name, date of birth and sex) to the Department of Education and the Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar.

For your university records, the Department of Education can still retrieve your records using just your personal details.

For your VET records, the Office of the Student Identifiers Registrar will use your personal details to retrieve your USI and then send your USI to NCVER to retrieve your VET records.

## Linking your Centrelink data

In the past, it has been difficult to determine how changes to welfare payments impact people's lives, and the experience of people on different payments. We are hoping that insights provided through data linkage from the Australian Department of Social Services can help with this.

We will be asking 19–21 year olds permission to link their survey data to Centrelink data to better understand how these payments work (or don't work) for those who need them.

Linked data is used for **research purposes only** and will have **no impact on your Centrelink payments**.

Your **contact details are removed BEFORE** the Centrelink records are attached to your *Growing Up in Australia* survey responses. This means you **WON'T be identified** from the linked data.

*Growing Up in Australia* data linkage works in **one direction only**. Centrelink records are attached to the *Growing Up in Australia* survey responses, but *Growing Up in Australia* survey responses **WON'T be shared** with Centrelink.

**Department of Education**  
will **NOT** be able to access  
your *Growing Up in Australia*  
survey information

**Centrelink**  
will **NOT** be able to access  
your *Growing Up in Australia*  
survey information



**Researchers CAN NOT** identify you from your *Growing Up in Australia* survey information