

## Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
<i>What is a longitudinal study?</i>	A longitudinal study collects information (or data) from the same people repeatedly over a period of time. Longitudinal data helps to create a picture over time and is able to show how actions and events can affect outcomes later in life.
<i>How did I get to be in the Study?</i>	<p><i>Growing Up in Australia:</i> The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children commenced in 2004 with two groups or 'cohorts' of 5,000 children. The 'Baby', or 'B' group was aged 0 – 1 year old and the 'Kinder', or 'K' cohort was aged 4 – 5 years old. The sample of 10,000 children was selected from the Medicare enrolment database held by the Health Insurance Commission. The Health Insurance Commission selected children of the appropriate ages and sent an 'invitation to participate' letter to the Medicare cardholder, along with a brochure on <i>Growing Up in Australia</i>. Families had 4 weeks to register their withdrawal from the Study. Interviewers subsequently contacted families who had not withdrawn to arrange an appointment for their first interview. The Study has contacted participating families every 2 years since to conduct interviews.</p> <p>Over the past 17 years, participants in the Study have included the Study Child/Young Person, as well as their Parents, carers, and teachers.</p>
<i>Why is the Study so important?</i>	The Study aims to identify opportunities for improving support and early interventions for children and their families. Findings from the Study are used to work out how to make things better for Australian children and young people in the future.
<i>Why can't I be replaced?</i>	One of the aims of the Study is to find out how events and circumstances in childhood affect outcomes later in life. As the information we have collected throughout your childhood is only relevant to you and your future, we cannot replace you or your family in the Study.
<i>I'm over 18, so no longer a child. Why am I still part of the Study?</i>	<i>Growing Up in Australia</i> is a longitudinal study, which means data is collected from the same people over time. The longer we are able to collect data from the same young people and their families, the more important and useful the information will be.
<i>How much longer will the Study go for?</i>	<i>Growing Up in Australia:</i> The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was made an ongoing project by the Australian Government in 2007. The hope is that the Study will continue for years to come.

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<i>I don't wish to participate anymore</i>	<p>It is important for a study like this to keep in contact with as many people as possible. Each young person in the Study represents around 50 others like them and you can't be replaced by someone else.</p> <p>The value of this study comes from having information about the same people collected over time. Your experiences when you were younger helped to make changes that benefit children and their families today. Your experiences today, like opportunities for work and further study, will help to inform policy makers to improve outcomes for young people in the future.</p> <p>Being in <i>Growing Up in Australia</i> gives you a chance to be part of a unique study that helps develop better services for young people and their families.</p>
<i>Are my parents doing a survey too?</i>	<p>We are asking you and one of your parents to complete a short online survey or telephone interview.</p>
<i>Why do you still want to ask my parent questions?</i>	<p>Continuing to capture family information allows for more detailed and more accurate longitudinal data.</p>
<i>Will you be sharing my answers with my parent?</i>	<p>We do not share any of your information with your parent. All of the answers you give are confidential and only authorised people have access to your information. So, even if your parent asks us, we do not share your answers with them.</p>
<i>What will my data be used for?</i>	<p><i>Growing Up in Australia</i> explores a range of research areas about the development and wellbeing of young people and their families including work, health and wellbeing, behaviours and relationships and in this online survey the impacts of COVID-19. After you complete your online or telephone survey, personal details are removed, and everyone's answers are combined and sorted to create the data set for each wave. By analysing all the data collected over the years, researchers make important discoveries to inform policy opportunities for improving support for children and their families and identifying opportunities for early intervention. Researchers from a range of disciplines can apply to use <i>Growing Up in Australia</i> data.</p>
<i>How is my data protected?</i>	<p>Before any data is made available to researchers, all details that could identify individuals (including names and addresses) are removed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict procedures are followed to ensure that only authorised people have access to the information you provide, and that all the Interviewers, researchers and others involved comply with the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> and the <i>Privacy Amendments Act 2001</i>. The Study is <u>not</u> conducted under the <i>Census and Statistics Act 1905</i>.</li> </ul>
<i>Do Privacy guidelines affect the Study?</i>	<p>We are required to openly inform you about the privacy processes which is why there is a Privacy brochure for you to view on the Growing Up in Australia website - <a href="http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au/privacy-ethics">growingupinaustralia.gov.au/privacy-ethics</a></p>

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<i>When will I get my eGift card?</i>	<p>For the Young Person you will receive an email 2 weeks after completing your online/telephone survey with a link to your \$20 Flexi eGift card.</p> <p>For the Parents there are two random draws with the chance to receive an eGift card worth \$50. If you complete your online survey before 19 July, you will be eligible for both draws. If you complete your online survey or telephone interview before 21 September, you will still be eligible for one of the draws. If you are a lucky recipient in the first or second draw you will be sent an email 2 weeks later with a link to your eGift card.</p>
<i>What is a Flexi eGift card?</i>	<p>A Flexi eGift card is an eGift card that allows you to choose from a wide range of store gift cards and vouchers.</p> <p>For the Young Person you can choose to convert your Flexi eGift into a \$20 card or voucher of your choice, or into any combination of gift cards or vouchers up to the \$20 value.</p> <p>For the parents you can also choose from a wide range of store gift cards and vouchers. You can also convert a Flexi eGift Card into a combination of gift cards or vouchers up to the \$50 value.</p>
<i>How do I redeem my gift card?</i>	<p>For the Young Person your Flexi eGift Card will be emailed to you 2 weeks after you complete your online/telephone survey. Click the link in the email to open your Flexi eGift Card, and then convert your Flexi eGift Card into any combination of gift cards or vouchers up to the total available balance. How you redeem your chosen gift card depends on the card or voucher chosen.</p> <p>For the Parents if you were a lucky recipient of an eGift Card it will be emailed to you 2 weeks after the first random draw or 2 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> random draw. Click on 'Select where to spend your Flexi gift value' for a full list of available options, choose eGift cards and/or vouchers up to \$50.</p>
<i>What stores can I spend my eGift card at?</i>	<p>You can redeem your Flexi eGift card for gift cards or vouchers at over 40 retailers and service providers. You will be able to see a full list of options by following the link in the eGift card email.</p>
<i>Why are you directly approaching my child now?</i>	<p>Now that your Young Person is an adult or is about to turn 18 there are a few changes to the interview process. The main change is that we are contacting your Young Person directly, rather than through you.</p>
<i>My child is over 18, why do you still want to ask me questions?</i>	<p>We need to continue to capture family information as this allows for more detailed and more accurate longitudinal data. Your information is still hugely important to inform government policy and aid researchers all working to help families and young people in Australia.</p>

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<p><i>Why are the questions just about me (parent) and not about my young person this time?</i></p>	<p>We acknowledge that the questions in the online/telephone survey are focussed on you rather than your young person. During this very different time we are all experiencing, we are trying to find out how parents and young people are coping noting that parents' lives can have a significant impact on the lives of their children. As we are only able to ask our participants to do a short online/telephone survey this year, we had to greatly reduce the amount we asked and so have focussed on how each person has been going. We will be able to bring this information together and look at the impact of 2020/21 on families. Combining the information we collect from the current data collection with all that has been collected since <i>Growing Up in Australia</i> began will provide very detailed and useful data as we try to understand the long term effects of the pandemic on the lives of young people and their families.</p>
<p><i>What is involved this time around?</i></p>	<p>COVID-19 has meant that we have not been able to talk to you face-to-face like we usually do. It's important that we capture the impacts this time has had on you and your family, so we are asking you to complete a short online or telephone survey</p>
<p><i>How much longer will I be interviewed?</i></p>	<p><i>Growing Up in Australia</i>: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children was made an ongoing project by the Australian Government in 2007. The Study will continue to run while there is a reasonable study sample.</p>
<p><i>Will you be sharing my answers with my young person?</i></p>	<p>We do not share any of your information with your young person. All of the answers you give are confidential and only authorised people have access to your information. So, even if your young person asks us, we do not share your answers with them.</p>
<p><i>When will the next face to face interview be?</i></p>	<p>The Study is continuing as it's so important to find out what happens next to all our participants. We will notify everyone about our plans once we have a better idea of when we can visit you again. As always, we are so grateful for your ongoing support of this vital project. We would be hoping to contact you for another interview in 2023.</p>
<p><i>Why do I have to do this survey?</i></p>	<p>The data you provide right now will strengthen our understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the Australian economy and on our Study families. This will help this Government and any future governments make decisions based on real stories and data.</p>