

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



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

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) will **NOT** be able to access your *Growing Up in Australia* survey information

## 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 (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 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 emerging, and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea and rivers.



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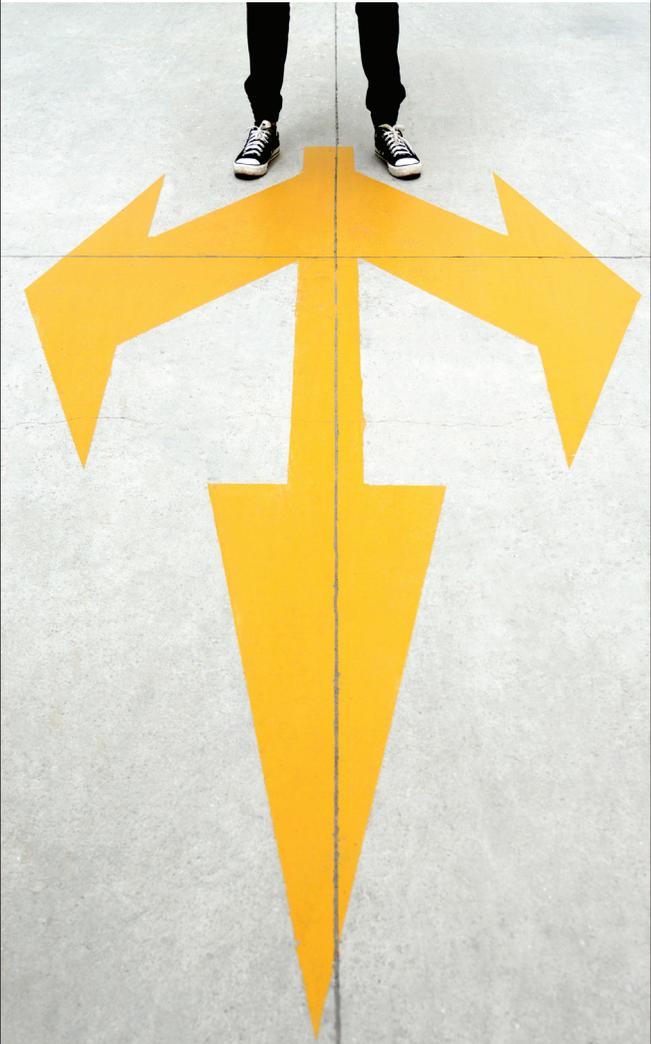
1800 005 508 @ [growingupinaustralia.gov.au](http://growingupinaustralia.gov.au)

[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.

When we can link your *Growing Up in Australia* data to other sources such as medical records, education records, government payments and social security, we can understand more about your circumstances. This information is important to policy makers and researchers in the areas of health and wellbeing.

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

## What data are 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 university and VET studies
- your immunisation history, and
- Centrelink data (for 19-20 year olds and their parents/guardians only).

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

## 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) enrolment records held by the Australian Department of Education (or their authorised representatives).

Including your education as part of your survey responses is key to understanding how young people, like yourself, make choices about their education options.

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

Linking university and VET data allows your survey responses to be linked to any educational programs you have already completed or might undertake in the future.

**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.**

*A unique data linkage key is created to link the data and make sure no identifying information is available to researchers.*

## If you consent to link your university and VET data<sup>1</sup>:

*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, contact details and date of birth to the Department of Education and the national body responsible for Vocational Education data<sup>3</sup> who will use this information to retrieve your university records and provide them to the study.

### If you do not know your USI:

*Growing Up in Australia* will provide your contact details and date of birth to the Department of Education who will use this information to retrieve your university records and provide them to the study.

*Growing Up in Australia* will also provide your contact details to the Unique Student Identifier Office, who will retrieve your USI and provide this to the national body responsible for Vocational Education data. Your USI will then be used to retrieve your VET data and this will be provided to the study.

## Linking your immunisation history data

Insights into your immunisation history is incredibly important when determining availability and access to vaccines.

By linking your survey data to data from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR), we are hoping to gain a greater understanding of the uses of the National Immunisation Program, the uptake of school vaccine programs and the availability of privately administered vaccinations such as flu or travel vaccines.

- 1 This includes higher education undertaken at non-university higher education institutions (e.g. private providers).
- 2 A USI is a ten-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 contact 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.

## Linking your Centrelink data

In the past, it has been difficult to determine the impact changes to welfare payments have on 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 19-20-year-olds and their parents/guardians' 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 is **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.

## 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:**

*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.