

WHO IS CARRYING OUT THIS STUDY?

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne leads a research group that is designing and managing the study.

The other partners in the group are the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Australian Institute of Family Studies. The study is funded by the Commonwealth Government.

ACNielsen, Australia's largest private social research organisation, has been contracted to carry out the interviews. ACNielsen is well respected for its integrity and independence.

WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE?

Confidentiality will be maintained at all times. ACNielsen will remove all personal details (such as name, address and phone number) and any identifying information given during your interview, before passing your answers to the Melbourne Institute. Researchers using these data will not know who has participated.

Melbourne Institute operates within the University's Ethics Guidelines. ACNielsen operates under the International Code of Marketing and Social Research Practice, which has strict protocols for ensuring personal information remains entirely anonymous.

All members of the group and researchers involved in the project must comply with the Privacy Act (1988).

www.livinginaustralia.org

More information:

1800 656 670



Questions & Answers

*Help us Shape
Australia's Future*



WHAT IS THE STUDY ABOUT?

The **Living in Australia** study aims to improve our understanding of what is happening in the lives of people in Australia. This is done by collecting and analysing information from thousands of families and individuals across Australia. As the study progresses, our knowledge of how Australians live and work will be greatly improved and this will help shape policy and other important decisions for our community.

Everyone's circumstances are relevant and of interest. By taking part in this study you are helping one of Australia's most important social research projects.

WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART?

You have been asked to take part in the study because you are now living in the household of someone who is participating in the research.

The study began in 2001, and the people who took part in the first year were chosen at random. For future phases of the study, anyone living in the same household as them will be asked to take part. Without having your information, we cannot gain a complete understanding of how households and family circumstances may be changing.

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Taking part in the **Living in Australia** study involves answering questions on a range of topics such as education, employment, retirement, income, assets, debts, family and how you feel about various aspects of your life. This should take about 35 to 40 minutes. The interviewer will ask everyone in the household (aged 15 years or over) to answer these types of questions. In addition, one person will also be asked to answer questions about the household in general.

In appreciation of your help with this study we will send a cheque for \$50 to households where all eligible household members participate. If only some of the household members participate, we will send the household a cheque for \$20.

Households are also sent a newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date with the outcomes of the study. If you would like a copy of the latest newsletter please ask our interviewer.

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

The information that you and thousands of others provide will help in planning for better education, employment, housing, pensions and social services. It will help researchers and policy makers answer questions such as:

- How do changes like leaving school, starting a new job or retiring affect people's lives?
- How do people balance the changing demands of work and family?

- How are attitudes changing over time?
- How do changes in the economy and in people's lives affect their spending?

The results will help improve the social and economic policies that affect all Australians.

IS THIS STUDY VOLUNTARY?

Yes, this study is voluntary. However, we hope you will choose to become part of it and help make the study – the first of its kind in Australia – a success. Your response is important as every individual and family provides unique information that no-one else can give!

MORE INFORMATION

If you want further information on the study, or would like to know more about how your privacy is protected please telephone 1800 656 670 (it's a free call), or visit our web site (at www.livinginaustralia.org). If you have any special needs (such as help with speaking English), or don't want to participate, please call the telephone number above or let the ACNielsen interviewer know, and we can make the arrangements.

We hope you will enjoy being part of this important and interesting study.

