

➡ 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 Australian 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.

➡ WHAT ABOUT PRIVACY?

We would like to assure you that the study has very strict guidelines to make sure that your identity is protected and the information you provide is kept in strict confidence at all times. Any information that could identify you or any members of your household will be deleted before any researchers can use the data.

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).

If you would like more details about the privacy guidelines please contact us
Email: livinginaustralia@acnielsen.com.au or Free call: 1800 656 670.



living

in Australia study

Questions and Answers

Inside

- What this important study is about
- Why you should be involved

➡ 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 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. This is your opportunity to provide policy makers and researchers with your view on life in Australia.

➡ 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, family and how you feel about various aspects of your life. This should take about 35 minutes. The interviewer will ask everyone in the household aged 15 years or over to answer these 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 \$25 to each person who participates. Once everybody in your household has taken part, your household will receive a bonus \$25.

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 your interviewer.

➡ WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

The information that you and thousands of others provide will help researchers and policy makers understand the way people's lives are changing, and how these changes differ between various groups in Australia.

It will help them answer questions such as:

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