

Participant Information Sheet

Project title: GENERATION

What is the project about?

GENERATION is a study of young Australians to understand youth transitions from school to post-school, including a focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic may impact decisions and pathways. This is the third year of the national study, which anticipates running for ten years in total.

The third survey of GENERATION will be conducted with Year 12 students from April 2024. Like in Wave 2 in 2023, all those who agreed to be recontacted in Wave 1 will be asked to participate in Wave 3 of the GENERATION study.

You are only being asked to participate in one survey at this stage. Separate invitations to participate in future surveys will be sent next year.

Who is involved in the project?

GENERATION is being undertaken by researchers from the Australian National University (ANU), the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and the Social Research Centre (SRC). The ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods is leading the research.

The research has been commissioned by the Australian Department of Education, and all Australian state and territory departments of education.

Who has been asked to participate?

Wave 3 for GENERATION will invite selected Year 12 students who have previously participated in Wave 1 and Wave 2 of GENERATION and students who have only completed Wave 1 of GENERATION who expressly agreed to be recontacted.

What does participation in the GENERATION mean for you?

You have been invited to complete an online survey, which will take about 30 minutes. The questions will focus on your career plans and interests, your experience of school over the last few years and what you like to do outside of school. There will also be questions about your background (including whether you have a disability or long-term medical condition). Information about your background will assist in the development of education policies that address your needs.

The survey is **voluntary**, and you can exit the survey at any time. You can withdraw your information from the project at any time prior to the end of fieldwork. After this point, a summary report may be provided to your school, depending on the number of student responses. You will, however, not be identifiable in this summary report.

We may also ask for your consent to link this survey to your education records. We would like to add your NAPLAN, senior secondary subject results and information from the Australian Early Development Census (a measurement of child development completed by your teacher in your first year of school).

Linkage will **make your information more useful** and **save you time** in completing this survey as we will not need to ask you about the subjects you are taking this year.

The linkage will be undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which has been reviewed and certified by the government as being able to perform data linkage work in a safe, secure and appropriate manner.

Consent to linkage is voluntary and is not required to participate in the survey.

What are the benefits of taking part?

You will receive a \$25 electronic gift card as a thank-you for your time. This will be sent to your nominated email address upon completion of the survey.

Upon completion of the survey, you will be provided with the option to receive a personal report based on your responses to questions about your social and emotional skills asked in Wave 2 and how you compare to other GENERATION participants.

If you did not complete Wave 2, you will be asked to specify which of the specific topics is of most interest to you. You will be directed to the GENERATION site to read about insights generated from Wave 1 data about your life and education in Australia.

How will the research be used?

This information will be used to help you gain a better understanding about your goals, help your school understand how to better support your career goals and to improve the schooling of future generations. Background information (including whether you have a disability or long-term medical condition) will enable researchers to understand whether student experiences vary by personal circumstances.

Survey and linked information will be used in reports, publications and on the GENERATION website. Individual students or schools will not be identified in reports available to the general public.

How will my information be kept confidential?

We will protect the confidentiality of your responses to the extent permitted by law. Your name and contact details will be kept in a separate, password-protected computer file from any data that you give us. Any survey and linked information will not be looked at on their own but will be combined with those of other participants and analysed as a group.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other person or body unless you consent, or it is required by law. Individuals who take part in the survey will not be identified in any report or publication.

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU, ACER and SRC must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppi/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

ACER's Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.acer.org/privacy>

SRC's Privacy Policy is available at <https://www.srcentre.com.au/research-participants/privacy>.

Where will the data be stored?

Data that contains personal information (such as names, date of birth, and address) will never be used or stored together with survey responses. Your parents' contact details that you provide will have been collected and held by the Social Research Centre, on behalf of the Australia National University (ANU).

The data collected in this survey will be de-identified (i.e. any identifying information will be removed) and stored separately by the Social Research Centre. De-identified data will then be securely archived in the Australian Data Archive for research purposes for at least five years following publication of the results.

Are there any risks from taking part?

There are some potential risks for participating in this research. You only need to answer questions if you feel comfortable and safe to do so. If at any stage in the research you feel distressed or in need of assistance, please get in touch with the research team or the following support services.

GENERATION Helpdesk on 1800 122 789 or generation@scentre.com.au.
Beyondblue - <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> or call 1300 224 636
Headspace - <https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace> or call 1800 650 890
Kids Helpline - www.kidshelpline.com.au or 1800 551 800
1800RESPECT - www.1800respect.org.au or 1800 737 732

Who to contact for more information?

For more information about the survey, please visit the project website <https://www.generationsurvey.net/> or contact the GENERATION helpdesk on 1800 122 789. Alternatively, contact the Professor Ben Edwards at generation@anu.edu.au

Who to contact for concerns or complaints?

If you have concerns about the survey or privacy issues, you can contact the Social Research Centre privacy@scentre.com.au or call (03) 9236 8500.

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/037). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au

Our research team:

Professor Ben Edwards (ANU), Professor Matthew Gray (ANU), Professor Andrew Norton (ANU), Kate Doery (ANU), Dr Daniel Edwards (ACER), Kylie Hillman (ACER), Natasha Vickers (SRC), and Patrick Scott (SRC).

What is the data linkage process?

A unique identification number will be used to make the matching happen. Giving your permission to do this is voluntary. You can change your mind whenever you like, however, any data that has already been combined at that point is combined for good.



If you agree to have your information linked:

- The GENERATION team will provide your contact details and the names of the schools you have attended to the relevant state/territory education departments who will use your details to find your NAPLAN and senior secondary subject results over time as they become available.
- State/territory education departments will give your results (but not your contact details) to the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), who will securely bring all the information together.
- The combined anonymous data is then given to the GENERATION team who will make the data available for academic and policy research purposes only.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) is a certified data linkage authority. A data linkage authority is an organisation that has been reviewed and certified by the government as being able to perform data linkage work in a safe, secure and appropriate manner.