

AUSTRALIAN FOOD FREQUENCY SURVEY
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET
PANEL: LIFE IN AUSTRALIA™
PARTICIPANT GROUP: YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-17 YEARS

Introduction

One of your parents or guardians said we can ask you to do a survey about your food consumption in the last seven days. By completing this survey, you will earn a \$10 incentive.

What is this study about?

This survey asks about what foods you have eaten in the last seven days. It should take you about 15-20 minutes. It may take some people longer. The Social Research Centre, a research company is running the survey for the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. All information is stored in Australia.

All your answers are private. You can stop anytime you want to or just say prefer not to say if you do not want to answer some of the questions.

You can take a break from the survey if you want to – just close your browser. When you want to come back to the survey, click on your survey link and you will go back to where you left the survey. You are also free to stop at any time with no requirement to complete the remainder of the questions.

You do not have to do the survey if you do not want to.

The survey will help the Department to understand what food Australians eat on a regular basis to help them investigate cases when people get sick from eating contaminated foods. The survey data will be used solely by OzFoodNet for foodborne disease outbreak investigations. OzFoodNet is Australia's enhanced foodborne disease surveillance system with epidemiologists located in each jurisdiction and the Department focused on investigating foodborne disease (<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/ozfoodnet-network>).

What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire. The questions being asked include whether you have eaten poultry, eggs, salad/produce, vegetables, fruit, drinks, meats, seafood, milk/dairy, nuts, snack foods, sauces, and herbs/spices.

What happens in the survey?

It would be best if you tried to answer all the questions by yourself, but your parents can watch or help you if they want to.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can ask your parents, or you can ring us 1800 023 040 or send us an email at LifelnAus@srcentre.com.au.

If you have already completed the survey and wish to withdraw from the study, your survey responses will be removed upon request. Participants can opt-out at any time until the end of the study in May 2027. You may contact the Social Research Centre by phone at 1800 023 040 or via email at LifelnAus@srcentre.com.au.

If something in the survey worries or upsets you while you are doing it, or afterwards, please talk to your parents or a trusted adult or you can talk to someone privately by calling or contacting:

LIFELINE

13 11 14

www.lifeline.com.au

13YARN

13 92 76

www.13yarn.org.au

Butterfly Foundation

1800 33 4673

<https://butterfly.org.au/>

Beyond Blue

1300 22 4636

www.beyondblue.org.au

Headspace

1800 650 890

headspace.org.au

KIDS HELPLINE

1800 551 800

www.kidshelpline.com.au

Please note 13 YARN is for Indigenous Australians, Butterfly Foundation focuses on eating and body image, Lifeline and Beyond Blue are for mental health assistance, KIDS Helpline is for youth support, and Headspace is also for youth mental health.

What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Sheet.

Your information will be stored securely in Australia and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

This survey is completely private - you will not be asked to provide your name or other contact details at any stage.

The privacy of your information is very important. Personal information is stored securely and The Social Research Centre de-identifies any personal information as soon as is reasonably practicable and as soon as that information is no longer relevant or required in identifiable format for the primary purpose of conducting the research according to the research brief provided by our clients. This is done in a comprehensive manner that ensures that it is not possible to re-identify individual information from any aggregate records. Any files related to our projects are deleted pursuant to our obligations under the Australian Privacy Principles.

The Social Research Centre's Privacy Policy is available [here](#), and contains further details regarding how you can access or correct information we hold about you, how you can make a privacy related complaint, and how that complaint will be dealt with. Should you have any questions about our Privacy Policy or any of the above matters, you may contact our Privacy Officer by calling (03) 9236 8500 or by emailing privacy@srcentre.com.au.

What if I have a complaint or any questions about the study?

This project has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Bellberry Limited Human Research Ethics Committee (2025-04-599).

If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact:

Director of Operations, Bellberry Human Research Ethics
Bellberry Limited
Phone: 08 8361 3222
Email: bellberry@bellberry.com.au

If you have questions regarding the study, please contact:

Dr Wendy Heywood
Director, Quantitative Research

The Social Research Centre
Phone: 03 9236 8500
Email: wendy.heywood@srcentre.com.au