

## Participant Information Sheet

Project title: **GENERATION**

### What is the project about?

GENERATION is a national study that follows young Australians as they transition to life beyond school. This landmark study reflects the collective experience of young Australians – inside and outside school – and provides both participants and educators valuable insights into career interests and post-school plans.

This is the fourth year of the national study, which is expected to run for ten years in total.

Wave 4 of GENERATION will be conducted from September 2025 with a cohort of young people, many of whom are in their first year out of high school. Like in previous waves, all those who agreed to be recontacted in Wave 1 will be invited to participate in Wave 4.

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). POLIS: The Centre for Social Policy Research at the ANU 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?

Young people who agreed to be recontacted in Wave 1, conducted in 2022, will be invited to participate in Wave 4 of GENERATION.

### What does participation in the GENERATION mean for you?

You have been invited to complete an online survey, which will take about **30 minutes**. You will be asked about the activities you have participated in this year, including any study or training, if you have been working, or if you are on a gap year.

The survey also includes questions about the financial implications and impacts of any current or future study and training plans. We have included questions about your use and perceptions of Generative AI and how it has influenced your career planning.

There will also be questions about your background (including whether you have a disability or long-term medical condition), your mental health and wellbeing and your social supports. 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.

If you have undertaken study at a university in 2025, you will be asked if you consent to having your responses linked to the Student Experience Survey (SES), which you may have recently completed in August 2025. In addition, if you have not previously consented, you will also be asked for your consent to link this survey to your education records including NAPLAN 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**. 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 within the week of completion of the survey.

### **How will the research be used?**

Information collected in this survey will be used to help gain a better understanding of your goals, help schools understand how to better support students' career goals, and improve the schooling of future generations. Background information will enable researchers to understand whether 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. Due to the nature of this research and the need for data linkage, anonymity is not practicable. However, 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, and will not be used for direct marketing or promotional purposes. 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/ppl/document/ANUP\\_010007](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/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.

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

We take steps to ensure the personal information we collect is accurate and current. If you believe your information is not correct, please contact the SRC on 1800 122 789 or at [generation@srcentre.com.au](mailto:generation@srcentre.com.au). We aim to respond to update requests within 30 days.

### **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 contact information will be held by the SRC on behalf of ANU. The data collected in this survey will be de-identified (i.e. any identifying information will be removed) and stored separately by the SRC. 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. All data will be stored and processed within Australia, no information will be transferred or disclosed to overseas recipients.

### **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@srcentre.com.au](mailto:generation@srcentre.com.au).

**Beyondblue** - <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> or call 1300 224 636

**Lifeline** - <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> or call 13 11 14

**Headspace** - <https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace> or call 1800 650 890

**Kids Helpline** - [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au) or 1800 551 800

**1800RESPECT** - [www.1800respect.org.au](http://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 122 879. Alternatively, contact Professor Ben Edwards at [generation@anu.edu.au](mailto: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@srcentre.com.au](mailto:privacy@srcentre.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](mailto:Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au)

**Our research team:**

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