



Your time is valuable

We know that families with young children are often very busy. Remember that the interview can be done at a time and place that suits you.

Growing Up in Australia families have been interviewed in a range of locations – from hospital rooms to parks, and of course in the home!

Planning on moving?

When we interviewed families for the second time, 31 per cent had moved since the first interview. With so many families on the move, it can be difficult to keep in touch.

So that we can easily contact you, please let us know if you're moving by calling **1800 005 508**, by sending an email to **growingup@abs.gov.au**, or by sending the information to:

Growing Up in Australia
Reply Paid 76746
Sydney NSW 2000

Your privacy

Your privacy is important to us and only the combined results of study participants will be discussed and published. Any information you provide will remain absolutely confidential – it will never be used in any way that identifies you, your child or family. Strict procedures are followed to ensure that only authorised people have access to the information you provide, and all the interviewers, researchers and others involved must comply with the Privacy Act 1988.

More information

If you have any questions, or would like more information about the study, please phone free call 1800 005 508 or visit the *Growing Up in Australia* website www.aifs.gov.au/growingup

Growing Up in Australia was initiated and funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The study is being undertaken in partnership with the Australian Institute of Family Studies, with advice being provided by a consortium of leading researchers at research institutions and universities throughout Australia. The data collection is undertaken for the Institute by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



Growing Up in Australia

the longitudinal study of Australian children

Your involvement is very important

One reason why your continued involvement is so important is because *Growing Up in Australia* is the only study that follows children from all around Australia as they grow up.

The real value of this study comes from having information about the same children collected over time. When people choose not to take part we get a less accurate view of how Australian children are developing.

The information you give us can answer questions like...

- How do children's first few years of life affect them as they grow older?
- How are the challenges facing Australian families changing over time?
- How do child care and the early school years contribute to children's development?

Helping to ensure every child has the best possible start in life

The information you have given us so far is being used to inform policy makers about the needs of children in the areas of child care and education, home environment and health care.

You are a voice for other Australian families. As one parent said:

"Being part of a study that will be taken into consideration when future services for families are planned is a good feeling."



The third interview

While the third interview is similar to the last one, some things are new. We would really appreciate your support for these parts of the study.

For children now aged 4-5 years

Now that almost all children will be at school, preschool or day care, we will be asking for your consent to contact your child's teacher or carer, as we do for children in the older age group. Teachers and carers have already given us a lot of important information about children in the study.

For the first time there will be some activities for the younger group of children to do. These are similar to the sorts of things children do at preschool and school – writing and drawing, and matching pictures to words read out by the interviewer.

For children now aged 8-9 years

The older children in *Growing Up in Australia* already enjoy doing activities at each interview. For these children there are also some questions about themselves and about school. This time the interviewer will ask them about some new topics like their feelings about their friends and family.

Information about literacy and numeracy

As you may know, children in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 at school take literacy and numeracy assessments. In 2008 these will be in May and will be the same for all children in Australia.

Having your child's results from these assessments would be really useful for the study. It will allow us to find out more about how Australian children are developing in this area.

If your child is aged 8-9 years, the interviewer will ask you to give your consent for us to obtain this information from your child's school and from educational agencies.

Including the views of your child's other parent

Children live in a variety of family situations, and we know that the parents of some of the children in the study do not live together. To fully understand children's development it is very important to have information from both parents.

If you do not live with your child's other parent, we will ask you to provide contact details for them. We will then contact your child's other parent to ask them to do a short telephone interview. To ensure confidentiality this interview will not be conducted by the same person who interviews you and no information will be passed on to your child's other parent.

