

# Growing Up in Australia

Helping to make sure all children have a good start in life

Do you have a child under 12 months or who is 4–5 years old? If so, over the next few months you may receive an invitation to take part in *Growing Up in Australia*.



The longitudinal study of Australian children



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***Growing Up in Australia*** is the new national study about the development of children. The study will follow 5,000 babies and 5,000 four year olds and their families for seven years.

Over this time we will collect information from the child's parents, child carers, pre-school and school teachers. We will be interested in children's health, education and social and emotional development.

The Health Insurance Commission, which looks after Medicare, will send letters of invitation to families.

We hope that as many families as possible take up the invitation. The more families that take part, the more valuable the study will be.

### **What is it like for families?**

*Being part of Growing Up in Australia will be interesting and fun!*

Every two years, parents will sit down with an interviewer to discuss their child's development. Families involved in the early stages of the study have told us they have enjoyed this experience.

One parent said, *"I thought I would be too busy to do the study but I found it was an opportunity to stop and reflect about my child and our life together as a family. It was time well spent!"*

*"I think it's great that my son is part of the study and he thinks he's pretty special for being selected,"* said another parent.

The privacy of the families and children taking part in the study is strictly protected.

### **Who is running the study?**

*Growing Up in Australia* is being conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services.

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

The information collected in the study will help government policy makers plan for future policies and services that will benefit families and their children. This will help to ensure that all Australian children will have the best possible start in life.

