

Further resources and information

We will also keep you up-to-date about the study and its progress. Regular newsletters will be sent to participating families, providing you with the latest information about the study.

For further information or questions about the survey or SFIA, please visit the website or contact the Social Research Centre via the phone number or email address below.

INQUIRIES

Freecall 1800 443 135
(excludes mobile phones)

Email: sfia@srcentre.com.au

<www.aifs.gov.au/sfia>



Australian Government

**Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

Australian Institute of Family Studies

What about my family's privacy?

Privacy is important. Information collected in this study will be kept confidential.

Any personal or identifying details will be removed from the data before they are passed on to the researchers at the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Social Policy Research Centre.

This will ensure that the reports written for the study will not identify any individuals who participated. Only the overall data will be analysed. This means that the information you provide will no longer be linked to your name, or other personal details. This will protect your privacy.

As well, all the researchers involved (at the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Social Policy Research Centre) and the interviewers from the

Social Research Centre have signed confidentiality agreements. This means they must follow strict privacy rules when handling your information and securely store the information that has been collected.

It is also helpful to note that the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which is managing the SFIA study, is a highly experienced research body with a history of respecting participants' privacy and confidentiality. The Institute has been conducting research on issues that affect Australian families for over 30 years.

Finally, all the questions for the telephone interviews have been checked and approved by the Institute's ethics committee.



What is the Stronger Families in Australia study?

The Stronger Families in Australia (SFIA) study is a long-term study of Australian families with young or school-age children and the communities in which they live.

The information collected from this research will help government and service providers to plan the right community services and support for families.

Two of Australia's leading research agencies are conducting this study for the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA):

- the Australian Institute of Family Studies; and
- the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

The telephone interviews are being conducted by the Social Research Centre, on behalf of the researchers.



Stronger
Families
in Australia

Why was your family selected?

Your family was randomly selected as part of a large group for the survey.

The study is being done in two phases.

The first phase of SFIA research began in 2006 and finished in 2008. About 2000 families with a 2–3 year old child were randomly selected from a range of communities around Australia. These children would now be 7–8 years old.

Phase two of the survey is about to start. It involves the families from phase one plus another 1,800 families. These new families were selected in the same way as families in phase one. About half of the new families will have a 2–3 year old child and the other half will have a 7–8 year old child.

Participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in the study, you can call 1800 433 135 (Freecall excluding mobiles).

What is involved?

You will be asked to do two telephone interviews that will take 20–25 minutes each. The first interview will be in September–November 2011. The second telephone interview will be about a year later.

An interviewer will contact you. You can arrange to be called back at a later time if you wish. You can arrange for a translator if that will be helpful.

The questions will focus on family wellbeing, community support for families, and early learning and care of children.

Families with 7–8 year old children will also be asked if we can link the interview data with NAPLAN (National Assessment Program–Literacy and Numeracy) information. This will provide further insight into children's learning and development.

You can withdraw from the study at any stage during an interview, and any data collected up until that point will be destroyed. After your interview it might also be possible to withdraw from the study by calling the Freecall number. However, once the telephone interviewers deliver the data to the researchers, it will not be possible to identify your responses because all identifying information will have been removed.

Why is the study important?

SFIA's results will provide a picture of family life in Australia today and will highlight the local support services that are most important in your community.

The information collected in the two phases of the study will be combined to help policy makers plan for future policies and services that will benefit families, their children and the communities in which they live.

Your views are very important to ensure that we get an accurate picture of what life is like for a wide range of Australian families from various areas and circumstances.

How will you benefit from the study?

This is a chance for you to have your say, and be part of a study that will help to secure a better future for children, families and the communities in which they live.

Your participation in this survey will help the Australian Government to assess the value of its efforts and to identify what else can be done to assist families in their communities.