

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

My name is James O'Donnell and I am a Lecturer and researcher in the School of Demography at the Australian National University. I am working with the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute to deliver the 2022 Mapping Social Cohesion study.

Project Title: Mapping Social Cohesion

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** The Mapping Social Cohesion study is a survey of Australians to gauge their attitudes to social cohesion and other social issues. The survey is funded by the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute and has been running since 2007. The Scanlon Foundation Research Institute has contracted the Social Research Centre and the Australian National University to collect and analyse the data in 2022. More information and past results from the survey can be found at: <https://scanloninstitute.org.au/research/mapping-social-cohesion>
- **Participants:** You are invited to complete the survey as a member of the Social Research Centre's Life in Australia™. All members of the panel, comprising more than 7,000 people, are invited to participate.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** Results of the survey will be published in a report on the Mapping Social Cohesion website (<https://scanloninstitute.org.au/research/mapping-social-cohesion>). Visit the website when the report is published in November 2022. In the meantime, you can also visit the website to see how results have been reported in previous years. Results will also be presented in different forums, including to government and community organisations and the media.
- **Project Funding:** This project is funded by the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute.

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Your participation in the survey is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or withdraw from the research at any time before the work is published in November 2022. You do not need to give a reason for withdrawing or not taking part and there will not be any negative consequences if that is what you decide. You can also refuse to answer any question you do not wish to answer.

To withdraw after completing the survey, please contact the Social Research Centre using the contact details provided in the invitation letter or contact me using the details provided below. Your data will not be used in any of the results if you withdraw.

- **What does participation in the research entail?** To participate in the survey, we ask that you complete the online questionnaire. A small number of panel members have elected to complete the survey over the telephone.

- **Location and Duration:** The survey is conducted online through the links provided by the Social Research Centre. If you cannot complete the survey online, you may be offered the option to do the survey by telephone. The questionnaire takes 20 minutes on average to complete.

Remuneration: As a member of Life in Australia™, you will receive the standard payment of \$10 for completing the survey.

- **Risks:** The Mapping Social Cohesion survey is designed to gauge your attitudes and experiences and is not designed to collect information that causes you physical or emotional harm. Nevertheless, some of the questions may cause you to feel discomfort or distress, particularly those that relate to sensitive social and political attitudes and experiences. Remember that you can skip any questions you choose and can withdraw your response after the completion of the survey. Please reach out for help if you need it through resources such as Lifeline (13 11 14), your GP and/or other health providers.

There is also a risk that answers you provide on the survey may be used to identify you, particularly by people you know. For this reason, you should not say or do anything that could harm or embarrass yourself or others. To reduce the risk of identification, we will not individually report your personal responses to any question without your written approval. All your responses will be added up with other participants so that we are reporting the average response or the proportion of participants who answer questions in particular ways (e.g. ‘20% of participants strongly agree that people can be trusted’). If only a small number of participants respond to a question in a particular way, we will not publish that response.

- **Benefits:** You may not benefit from this study directly, however the Mapping Social Cohesion study is one of the most important resources for measuring and understanding social cohesion in Australia. The study has been running since 2007, providing researchers, policy makers and the public with critical information about how national cohesion is faring over time and in response to major events such as financial crises and pandemics. The Mapping Social Cohesion study is a key input for state and federal governments in designing and managing policies and programs to strengthen cohesion.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** All of the survey responses you provide will be treated in confidence as far as the law allows. The survey results will be ‘de-identified’ after the Social Research Centre has finished collecting survey responses. This means that your name, contact details and other information that could be used to personally identify you will be removed from the data. Only the Social Research Centre will have access to this personal information. No names or contact details will be passed to the Australian National University, the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute or published in any reports or presentations.

As mentioned, none of your responses will be individually reported in the results we publish or present. Individual responses will always be added up, so that listeners and readers of the results will only be able to find out the aggregated proportion or average response to a question.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at 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.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** The survey data is securely stored by the Social Research Centre. De-identified copies of the data (with names and contact details removed) are provided to the Australian National University and the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute through a secure file transfer system. To find out about the Social Research Centre stores your data and protects your privacy, please visit: <https://www.srcentre.com.au/research-participants#privacy>

A de-identified copy of the survey data will be placed in a public archive to allow researchers to use the data in future. Researchers must submit a written application to the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute to access the data.

- **How long:** The survey data is securely stored by the Social Research Centre and in the public archive on a permanent basis.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** You can contact me to discuss any aspect of the Mapping Social Cohesion study using the following details:

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Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/166). 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