

## Participant Information Sheet

The ANUpoll survey series is being managed by Professor Nicholas Biddle, a researcher at the Australian National University.

### Project details:

- **Description and Methodology:** Approximately 3,500 Australians will be surveyed online, via 'Life in Australian™', the Social Research Centre's probability-based online panel, for this project. The project surveys Australians' views on a range of social and policy issues. In this particular wave of the project, we are interested in tracking ongoing views and experiences with the recent Coronavirus pandemic, including mental health and financial and economic effects. We are also interested in attitudes towards environmental issues, time and risk preference, and household goods including solar panels and batteries.

We are also collecting information on exposure to the Coronavirus, including whether or not a person has been tested, the results of those tests and their level of anxiety and worry due to COVID-19. This information is being collected in order to help understand the social, demographic and economic factors associated with COVID-19 testing and transmission and in order to test whether at the population level there is under-reporting of COVID-19 testing and infection rates.

A number of questions are repeated from previous surveys. These questions are repeated in order to track how the circumstances of Australians are changing through time.

- **Use of Data and Feedback:** Australian National University researchers will analyse the data and report the findings. ANUpoll findings are commonly reported in national media, but no individual respondents are ever mentioned or otherwise identified. The confidentialised data will be retained in the Australian Data Archive for future research.
- **Project Funding:** The project is funded by the Australian National University with support from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

### Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Participation in the project is entirely voluntary and you may, without any penalty, decline to take part or withdraw from the survey at any time until the work is prepared for publication without providing an explanation. You can refuse to answer any question throughout the survey. If you do withdraw, the primary investigator will retrieve and destroy your data record, and the survey will be continued without your responses and information.
- **What does participation in the research request of you?** All that is required of participants is completion of this survey, expected to take 15-20 minutes of your time.
- **Benefits:** By participating in this survey, you are helping to improve our understanding of Australian society, as well as the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australians. The data will be used to help design Australia's health, welfare and economic policies.

- **Risks:** In any collection of personal information, there is some risk that third parties will access confidential data. To minimise that risk, respondents' user identification will be encrypted. All personal information collected will be kept confidential as far as allowed by law and it will not be possible to identify individuals. At the end of the research only aggregate results will be presented and no one will be identified. The information will be stored in a secure location for at least five years following publications arising from the research.
- This survey includes questions that ask you about your own experiences with the Coronavirus, as well as experiences of others you know. There are also questions on wellbeing and economic circumstances.
- Some states and territories have made it compulsory to declare a positive Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). We do not ask in this survey whether any positive results have been declared and information on positive test results will not be shared with authorities and all steps will be taken, as far as the law allows, to keep that information secure. It should be noted though that there is a small additional risk of providing this information to interviewers and those who have concerns about this question should answer that they 'prefer not to say' to that question and/or contact authorities in their jurisdiction to provide the information required.
- There are no compulsory questions in the survey, and details of support services are provided below and again at the end of the survey.
- **Confidentiality:** The Australian National University treats the privacy and security of all respondents with the greatest concern. Respondents' user identification will be encrypted, until all respondents have completed the survey (and any responses retrieved and destroyed upon request), and all identifying information can be destroyed. Only once that information is destroyed will the remaining data be moved from the Social Research Centre's secure server. Only the anonymised data will be made available to the primary investigator and to other researchers. The data will only be reported in aggregate form.
- For more information about the additional protections for participants in the Life in Australia panel, please follow the link on the Social Research Centre's website - <https://www.srcentre.com.au/our-research/life-in-australia-study>

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](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.
- **Where:** The data collected in this survey will be anonymised (i.e. any identifying information will be removed and destroyed) and stored securely by the Social Research Centre. The anonymised data will then be archived in the Australian Data Archive for at least five years from following publication of the results.
- **Additional support:** If you would like to talk to someone about any issues that have arisen from participating in this survey, about how you have been feeling, or if you have any concerns about your mental health or questions related to the alcohol questions, please seek support from one of the services listed below:

beyondblue

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Phone: 1300 22 4636

Lifeline

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Phone: 13 11 14

- For those who were affected by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, please contact one of the agencies above if you have concerns about your mental health, or contact Services Australia for other types of assistance or the Department of Health for information about COVID-19 and vaccines

Services Australia

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/affected-coronavirus-covid-19>

Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/contacts/national-coronavirus-helpline>

**1800 020 080**

### **Queries and Concerns:**

- **Contact Details for More Information:**

For any further information, queries, or complaints, please contact:

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### **Ethics Committee Clearance:**

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2014/241). 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)