

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

My name is Dr Markus Hahn, and I am a research fellow at the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the Australian National University. I am the primary investigator for this research project.

Project Title: Longitudinal Recruitment Pilot

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** The Australian National University seeks to establish a new online panel, which will collect data on Australians on a range of topics via the internet. We expect this online panel to make important contributions to research that improves our understanding of Australian society.

The pilot study, to which you have been invited, will support the design of this new online panel. You, and about 600 other Australians, will be part of a small, but important study that starts in August 2022 and runs for about a year. We will ask you about your age and your level of education but also about more complex matters, such as your views and opinions, your well-being, or your income. Your participation is entirely voluntary. We may contact you a few times after the first wave of the study, inviting you to complete a slightly different questionnaire each time. This allows us to examine what has changed over time. The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI) is conducting the survey on our behalf.

- **Participants:** A number of Australian adults have been randomly selected from the Australian electoral roll and from the population of Australian mobile phone owners. We expect about 600 willing participants.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** Australian National University researchers will analyse the data and use it to design a new online panel. We intend to publish the research in peer-reviewed journals and in other appropriate outlets. The de-identified data will be retained in the Australian Data Archive for future research. Participants will be emailed a link to all research outputs.
- **Project Funding:** The project is funded by the Australian National University.

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 project at any time until the work is prepared for publication without providing an explanation. You can refuse to answer any question. If you do withdraw, the primary investigator will retrieve and destroy your data record, and the project will be continued without your responses and information.

What does participation in the research entail? You would participate in an online survey, which should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You may also be invited to participate in a future wave of the survey.

The questionnaire contains some questions that are considered sensitive, such as questions about your physical or mental health. If you come to any question you prefer not to answer, you are welcome to skip it. The questions we ask are very common in other national surveys. Asking them allows us to compare the data we collect to these surveys.

We collect your name, address, mobile number, and email address so that we can stay in contact with you. This personal information will be kept separate and not used in any research. We need this data to make the project work. We have used your name and address to send you a letter if you were selected from the electoral roll. We have used your mobile number to send you a text message if you were selected as a mobile phone participant. We will use your email address for all future communication.

- **Remuneration:** In recognition of your time, we will offer you a \$15 shopping voucher. The voucher will be sent to your email address.
- **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 on your wellbeing and economic circumstances. There are no compulsory questions in the survey, and details of support services are provided below and again at the end of the survey.

- **Benefits:** By participating in this research project, you are helping to inform the design of a new online panel the Australian National University seeks to establish in 2023. We expect this new panel to improve our understanding of Australian society, with the data collected to be used to help design Australia's health, welfare and economic policies. We as the investigators and ACSPRI as the survey partner will gain valuable experience in running a smaller-sized version of the panel. Some of the findings will also be beneficial to the wider scientific community, with research findings to be published in reports and peer-reviewed journals, and the data to be made available to other researchers through the Australian Data Archive.

Exclusion criteria:

- **Participant Limitation:** Persons younger than 18 years of age and persons currently not residing in Australia are excluded from this research.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** The Australian National University and ACSPRI treat the privacy and security of all participants with the greatest concern. All data will be encrypted and stored on secure servers located in Australia. We will keep your identity confidential as far as allowed by law. Any identifying details will be stored separately from the rest of the research data and destroyed as soon as data collection ends or you no longer wish to participate. ANU researchers will conduct research using only the de-identified research data. Your identifying data will not be used in any research. All data will be de-identified (i.e. any identifying information will be removed and destroyed) and moved from ACSPRI's secure servers when the project ends. The de-identified data will be archived in the Australian Data Archive for at least five years. Research finding will only be reported in aggregate form. You will not be identifiable within published outputs.

For more information about the additional protections for participants, please contact the primary researcher, whose contact details are below.

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 and how long:** The data collected in this project will be kept confidential and stored securely by ACSPRI on Australian servers. When the project ends any identifying information will be removed and destroyed. These de-identified data will be archived in the Australian Data Archive for at least five years following publication of the results.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:**

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

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The Australian National University
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Email: markus.hahn@anu.edu.au

- **Contact Details if in Distress:** 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, please seek support from one of the services listed below:

beyondblue

www.beyondblue.org.au

Phone: 1300 22 4636

Lifeline

www.lifeline.org.au

Phone: 13 11 14

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/316). 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