



## Department of Health and Human Services

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### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Full Project Title:** Preventive Health Study (PHS)

**Principal Researchers:** Denise Laughlin; Dr Atika Farooqui

The PHS is conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services (**department**). The Social Research Centre Pty Ltd (**SRC**) is engaged by the department to conduct the interviews as part of the PHS and will be your first point of contact of an interview.

#### **Why does the department need information collected as part of the PHS?**

Australia has one of the best health systems in the world, but it is under pressure from a rapidly growing and ageing population and increases in preventable chronic disease. The PHS aims to explore health needs in the community to improve the health of all Victorians.

#### **What is the purpose of this study?**

The study is intended to assist in the department's planning and policy development and to promote improvement in the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

If you would like to know more about the PHS you can access the following websites for further information where it is also translated into other languages.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems> and on [www.srcentre.com.au](http://www.srcentre.com.au)

#### **Why was my household selected?**

A sample of individuals is selected at random for participation in the PHS. Your answers will represent the views of similar individuals in your community.

#### **What does participation in the PHS involve?**

Participation in the PHS will involve answering the survey questions which will take approximately 20 minutes. You (or your teenager aged 15 -17) will be asked questions about nutrition, physical activity and general health. You will also be asked to provide general information, such as gender and age.

#### **Who are interviewed in the Survey?**

Depending on your household, if you are a parent or guardian of children aged 5-14 years you may be asked to answer questions about your child's health, physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, or you may be asked to give consent for your teenager aged 15 -17 to participate.

**Is the survey related to all of my children in the household?**

The survey is about a particular child's health so you should provide answers about one of your children and no one else in your household.

**What if I or my teenager are not interested in participating?**

Participation is completely voluntary which means you or your teenager are free to decline to participate when contacted or at any time during the interview. There are no consequences if you decline to participate in the PHS at any time.

An interview with your teenager will only proceed if both you and your teenager consent.

**My preferred language is not English, can I still participate?**

You can request that the person who interviews you speaks to you in one of the following languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Serbian-Croatian, Arabic and Turkish.

**What if the time the interviewer calls is not convenient for me?**

Your participation is very important so the interviewer will be happy to arrange a time that is convenient for you. Interviewers are available between 8:30am and 8:30pm Monday to Friday, 10:00am and 5:00pm Saturday, and 10.30am and 5.00pm on Sunday.

If you are unable to complete the interview at the arranged time, the interviewer will schedule another appointment for a time that is convenient for you. Alternatively, you can call the department's PHS Hotline (free call) on 1800 354 322 and schedule an appointment with a departmental officer.

**Do I have to give my name and address?**

No. The interviewer will ask for your name to assist with the interview, but if you wish, the interview can be conducted anonymously.

Your address does not need to be recorded. You can provide an approximate location of where you live so as to make the record of your responses completely anonymous.

**Do I have to answer all questions?**

No, you do not have to answer a particular question if you do not wish to answer.

**What happens to my personal information collected as part of the PHS?**

Your privacy is important to us and we take it very seriously. Neither the department nor the SRC will disclose your name and address to any other person.

Any information which could identify you is kept separately from your responses to survey questions. Your name and address, if it is recorded and contact telephone number will be deleted once all the responses have been collated by the department and the PHS completed.

Until your personal details are deleted the department and the SRC will keep your personal information secure from unauthorised access.

### **Privacy Law**

The department and SRC are required by law to protect your personal information.

The SRC is also bound by the Market Social Research Privacy Principles ([www.amsro.com.au](http://www.amsro.com.au)), and the Australian Market and Social Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour ([www.amsrs.com.au](http://www.amsrs.com.au)).

### **How about the interviewers interviewing my teenager?**

The interviewers interviewing your teenager are carefully selected by the SRC. All interviewers have undergone police clearance checks and hold working with children certificates.

### **How can I get access to the results of the PHS?**

The results of the PHS will be published on the department's website and may be published in a Commonwealth publication.

### **What are the possible benefits?**

You are not paid or compensated for your participation in the PHS. Your participation in the PHS will, however, contribute to preventive health for the benefit of all Victorians and may directly assist in the development of health services in your local community.

### **What are the possible risks?**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in the survey. You do not have to answer a particular question if you feel uncomfortable or do not wish to do so for any reason.

### **Can I access research information kept about me?**

In accordance with Victorian privacy law, you can access your personal information at any time prior to its deletion at the completion of the PHS.

### **Is this research project approved?**

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (**HREC**). The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the department's HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

### **How do I obtain more information?**

If you want any further questions answered about the PHS or if you want to discuss anything related to your involvement in the PHS, you can call the department on 1800 354 322 and speak with a departmental officer about the PHS.

### **Who should I contact for complaints?**

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the PHS, the information you have been provided as background or the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a PHS participant, then you may contact:

Name: Mr. Jeffrey Chapman; Position: Secretary Ethics; Telephone: (03) 90965239  
Email [research.ethics@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:research.ethics@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

Participant information in Italian  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Greek  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Mandarin,  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Cantonese  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>

Participant information in Arabic  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Turkish  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Serbo-Croatian  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>  
Participant information in Vietnamese  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems>

**This information is for you to keep**