



Join our study

You have been randomly selected to be part of a national study involving parents from all over Australia.

Family Pathways: Looking Back is a study involving separated parents in Australia that explores the pathways families have taken as well as how they are adjusting to life after separation.

Separation presents many challenges for families and is an extremely difficult time for all concerned. Information collected as part of this study will provide new insights on this complex event. It will also help us understand how changes brought about by reforms to the family law system affect the way in which family separation and parenting after separation are managed.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is conducting the study. The Institute undertakes high-quality research that informs the Australian Government and the community, and influences policy, services and support for families.

Your privacy

Information you give us during the interview will remain strictly confidential and will never be used in any way that identifies you, your child or family.

All interviewers, researchers and others involved must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*. Very strict procedures are followed to ensure information you provide remains absolutely confidential.

About us

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is an Australian Government statutory authority that originated under the *Australian Family Law Act 1975*. It was established in 1980 to promote the identification and understanding of factors affecting marital and family stability in Australia. To find out more about the Institute, visit our main website at: www.aifs.gov.au

The Institute has been commissioned by the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to undertake an evaluation of the family law reforms. Information collected from the Family Pathways study will contribute to the Institute's evaluation.

More information

For more information about the study, visit the website: www.aifs.gov.au/familypathways

The Social Research Centre will undertake the data collection for the Institute. To update your contact details, telephone Freecall 1800 443 135



Australian Government

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Family Pathways: Looking Back



Web www.aifs.gov.au/familypathways



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A better overall picture

You can help us to gain a better picture of how parents and their children are adjusting to life after separation.

Your views are really important so that we get an accurate picture of what life is like for a full range of separated parents, from various areas and circumstances, regardless of how often you have contact with your child.

How are families adjusting to life after separation?

We may talk to both parents in order to gain a full picture of the effects of separation on families. Your privacy is important to us and all information collected will be kept strictly confidential.

Your story

We know that parenting after separation can be pretty tough.

By telling your story and sharing experiences of how you and your family are adjusting to life after separation, you can help us understand:

- How do families manage parenting after separation?
- How are children's arrangements negotiated?
- What are the changes and challenges of life following family breakdown?

Telling us your story can also help us to understand the issues that families are facing and to further improve supports, services and future policy directions.

The success of the study depends on the valuable information provided by families like yours.

What is involved?

An accredited interviewer may telephone you soon to invite you to talk about your experiences of separation, caring for your children, and how you and your family are adjusting to life after separation.

Taking part is voluntary and you can choose not to answer questions.

The information you provide during the interview will be used to help identify policies that best assist families after separation.

Please be assured that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential. All details that could identify you or your family will be removed before researchers can use the data. No identifying information will be provided to any government agency.

Your child support will not be affected by whether or not you choose to participate in the study.