



## **PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE PATTERNS RESEARCH PROJECT**

### **INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CAREGIVERS**

**Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,**

Your child's school has agreed to participate in the Life Patterns research program. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like your child to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may contact Professor Wyn about anything you don't understand or want to know more about. Your child's participation is **voluntary**. If you don't wish your child to take part, you don't have to. If your child begins participating, they can also stop at any time.

#### **What is this research about?**

This research aims to investigate how young Australians navigate work, education, relationships, and their attitudes to personal and social futures. It analyses how young people build the relationships and access the resources that enable them to manage productive trajectories through education, work and relationship formation and identifies the factors that support them in their trajectories. You can find more information about our research on our website: <https://education.unimelb.edu.au/life-patterns>.

#### **What will my child be asked to do?**

Should you agree for your child to participate, they will be invited to complete an online survey questionnaire. The survey should take them about 20 minutes to complete. Students who complete the initial survey will then be contacted in 2023 and in the following years to complete surveys annually. At a later date, a small group of students may be asked to express interest in participating in an interview or a half-day workshop with other participants led by our research team. These are both voluntary activities.

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

By participating in this project, your child will get a chance to reflect on their schooling and life after school. They will be sent regular reports about the group of participants that includes them and have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of other young people. At a later stage in the project, a small group of participants will be invited to attend a workshop to share ideas with other young people from around Australia. All participants will also have access to publications that compare the experiences of their generation with people who left secondary school 15 and 30 years ago. These reports will give your child an understanding of their generation and of the things that contribute to resilience and wellbeing. By taking part in this project your child will also be informing policy makers and governments about the challenges and opportunities for young Australians and their attitudes to life. This information will help to ensure policies and programs for young people meet their needs.

To show our appreciation for your child's time and effort, if they complete the survey and are enrolled in an eligible school, they will automatically enter a draw and have **a chance to win a \$100 Coles/Myer Group gift card** (one gift card per school). In 2022, this compensation is only available to schools from New South Wales and Tasmania. For the duration of the project, gift cards will be distributed every year on a lottery basis for participants who complete the surveys.

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

If your child finds completing the project survey stressful or experience distress, we are able to advise them on how to seek the support of a counsellor and remind them that they are free to leave the study at any stage. The project data is kept in a secure space and will be used for research purposes only.

### **Does my child have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. Your child is able to withdraw at any time. Your child can also withdraw any data already collected from or about them.

### **Will my child hear about the results of this project?**

Yes. All participants will receive a participant report with updates from the project every year, following the waves of data collection. Participants will also be referred to the project's websites (including project progress, research report, academic publication) and other publications that communicate results from data analysis.

Academically, the project's outputs will take the form of participant and school reports, research reports; journal articles, book chapters, conference papers and keynote addresses; interviews with media; tweets and blogs; media articles and books. They will be made accessible to schools, labour market and health policy communities, and other researchers nationally and internationally via diverse platforms, such as public media, international refereed journals, publishing houses, and national and international conferences.

### **What will happen to information about my child?**

The survey data will be stored in a database under password protection. All databases containing participants' personal information are de-identified and assigned an ID number at the time of their recruitment. Data is only identifiable to the Chief Investigators and Senior Research Officers. Data is only accessible to the Chief Investigators and Senior Research Officers.

The project's anonymised survey data will be deposited at the Australian Data Archive (ADA), a national data repository hosted at the Australian National University. Access to the data will be restricted to applications from researchers approved by the Life Patterns team. The survey data generated by this project will be archived in anonymised and aggregated form to be available for future ethically approved research.

### **Who is funding this project?**

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council for five years (2021-2025).

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the research team:

Project Chief Investigator Professor Johanna Wyn (email: [j.wyn@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.wyn@unimelb.edu.au)),  
Project Manager Dr Quentin Maire (email: [quentin.maire@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:quentin.maire@unimelb.edu.au))

### **Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne [ethics ID: 20882].

If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010 (phone:+61 8344 1376; email: [research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au)).

All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.