



## A survey of life in COVID times:

*Your hopes for the future and your views on the role of government*

### Participant Information Sheet

**Researcher:** Val Braithwaite

- This survey is being conducted by Val Braithwaite, Emeritus Professor at the School of Regulation and Global Governance, College of Asia and the Pacific, at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. For 40 years, Val has been researching how governments might do better in meeting citizens' expectations. Information about Val's previous work is available at <http://valeriebraithwaite.com>

### General Outline

- **Description and method:** We are exploring the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has affected people's relationship with government. We are interested in Australians' hopes for 2021, challenges in 2020, their networks for coping, and their trust and expectations of government and major institutions. The self-completion mail survey is being distributed to approximately 15,000 random addresses in selected geographical areas.
- **Participants:** We are asking people to complete the survey in the next week and return it in the enclosed Reply Paid envelope. We would like the survey to be completed by the person in your household aged 18 years or over, who will have the next birthday. Because we don't know who will receive each survey, the responses are anonymous.
- **How will we use the data:** We will combine all responses we receive and analyse the data to show how Australians have coped in COVID times and what they think about the role of governments. The research is part of an ongoing academic project on how Australians think about their governments and what they want from them.
- **Feedback to you:** Our report will be available to participants on: <http://valeriebraithwaite.com>

### Participant Involvement

- **Voluntary participation and withdrawal:** The survey is voluntary, so you can choose whether or not to complete it. Also, you can decide not to answer any particular question. If after completing the survey you decide not to participate for any reason, you can simply not return it to us.
- **What is involved?** We ask you to complete the survey by answering the questions and posting it back to us in the envelope provided. Return postage is free.
- **Duration:** We ask you to complete this one-off survey in the next week. We expect the survey will take about 45 minutes, but this can vary depending on your answers. We are asking such a wide range of questions because people's views and experiences are varied and complex.
- **Risks:** We believe that there are few risks to participants in completing this survey. However, we do ask a number of questions about your feelings and experiences with COVID-19. Some people might find this topic uncomfortable or stressful. If you find any of our questions bring on unpleasant thoughts or memories, please seek support from a health professional such as your GP, a psychologist, or other mental health professional. You can also seek support from Lifeline on 13 11 14.

- **For more information about COVID-19:** Contact the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on 1800 020 080 which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Benefits of completing this survey:** By completing this survey you will help us understand how different groups of people have faced and are coping with the COVID pandemic. We believe there are many stories to tell, and that public officials need to hear and understand these stories and the needs of different groups of Australians.

## Confidentiality

Your survey responses will be anonymous and will only be used for our research and analysis. Our published results will be in summary form and will not identify any participants.

## Privacy Notice

The ANU must comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*. Because we don't know who you are and we don't want you to tell us your name, we will not store any information that can identify or be linked to you. 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)

## Data Storage

- **Where:** The survey data will be stored on a password-protected computer at the ANU.
- **How long:** Data will be stored for five years from the date of any publication arising from this research.
- **Handling of data following the required storage period:** The survey data will be archived with the Social Science Data Archive at the ANU. This will enable future researchers to have access to data that shows how thousands of anonymous Australians coped in COVID times.

## Queries and Concerns

- **Contact details for more information:** If you have questions or concerns about this survey, please contact:  
Val Braithwaite  
Emeritus Professor  
Australian National University  
[hopetrustsurvey@anu.edu.au](mailto:hopenetrustsurvey@anu.edu.au)
- **Contact details if in need of help:**  
Lifeline 13 11 14  
National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline 1800 020 080

## Ethics Committee clearance

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2020/695). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager  
ANU Human Research Ethics Committee  
Australian National University  
Telephone: (02) 6125 3427  
[human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au)

Many thanks for your time and help