



Waipapa
Taumata Rau
University
of Auckland

Growing Up
in New Zealand



17 Year Data Collection Wave

Young Person
Participant Information Sheet

You are invited to take part in the next phase of the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study: the 17 Year Data Collection Wave.

Please take your time to read through this information sheet, which has been developed to help you decide if you would like to take part.

This information sheet explains:

- Why we are doing the study.
- What your participation involves.
- The potential benefits and any risks of being involved.
- What happens to the information you share with us.

We are here to help, so please get in contact with us if you have any questions.

You can also call our helpline or text messaging service between 9am and 9pm, seven days a week:

0508 GROWING UP (0508 476 946)

Or email us at contact@growingup.co.nz anytime.

What does the 17 Year Data Collection Wave involve?

You are invited to complete a questionnaire to help us understand what life is like now that you are 17 years old.

The questionnaire will ask you about:

- How you are and how you feel about your life.
- What you think about school and your plans for when you finish school.
- How you see yourself and what you think about living in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Your family life and friendships.
- Your everyday life, including extracurricular activities and work.
- Using social media, mobile phones and AI.
- Your hopes and dreams for the future.

It also includes some questions about things that you might find more personal, such as:

- Romantic relationships.
- Health risk behaviours, including vaping, alcohol and drug use.
- Being hurt by other people.
- Self-harm and suicide.

Answering the questionnaire is your choice. You can skip any questions that make you feel upset or uncomfortable, or stop doing the questionnaire at any time.

Any information that you share with the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study will be kept confidential – no one will know how you answered the questions.

Your mother/primary caregiver will also be invited to be part of the 17 Year Data Collection Wave. If they agree, they will be asked to share the following information about you and the people in your household:

- How they are and how they feel about their life.
- You and your family's access to and use of government services.
- Their employment, income, and housing.
- Their hopes and dreams for your future.

What about data linkage?

Data linkage is a process used by researchers and policy makers to join different bits of information collected about individuals from a range of different surveys, research studies, and government databases. Data linkage helps to reduce the number of questions we need to ask you, which means you can spend less time completing the questionnaire.

We would like to ask your permission to do two different types of data linkage:

Data linkage at the University of Auckland:

- We will ask your permission to access data that has already been collected about you by government agencies (e.g. the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health).
- If you agree, then those agencies will share a copy of your data with the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study at the University of Auckland, where we will be responsible for storing it, protecting it and looking after it.
- Researchers who wish to access the linked (or joined up) dataset will apply to the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study and our Data Access Committee who will be responsible for making sure that the researchers meet our strict protocols for keeping you and your data safe.

Data linkage at Statistics New Zealand:

- We will ask your permission to share a copy of some of your 17 Year Data Collection Wave information with Statistics New Zealand (“Stats NZ”) so that it can be joined with other information collected about you by the Government and analysed in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). You can find out more about Stats NZ and the IDI on our website.
- If you agree, then the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study will share a copy of your 17 Year Data Collection Wave information with Stats NZ, where they will be responsible for storing it, protecting it and looking after it.
- Researchers who wish to access the linked (or joined up) dataset will apply to Stats NZ, and they will be responsible for making sure that the researchers meet our strict protocols for keeping you and your data safe.
- Stats NZ can recommend that researchers contact specialists from the *Growing Up in New Zealand* team at the University of Auckland to ensure that the research will help children and young people in New Zealand. However, the *Growing Up in New Zealand* team will not make any decisions about which researchers can access

your data and which projects are approved. Stats NZ will be responsible for making those decisions.

- You can also find more information on how to decide if you agree to sharing your *Growing Up in New Zealand* data from the 17-Year Data Collection with StatsNZ [here](#).

Both types of data linkage are optional – you can choose to do both, one, or none – whatever you decide is ok. You can still take part in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave, no matter what.

Do I have to take part in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave?

It is your choice whether to take part in all, or any, of the 17 Year Data Collection Wave.

If you do not want to take part, you don't have to give a reason, and it won't affect your involvement with the rest of the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study. If you want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can pull out at any time.

You may want to talk about the 17 Year Data Collection Wave and your involvement with the study with other people, such as family/whānau, friends, or your healthcare provider, before you decide about whether to participate. That is ok. You can also contact a member of the *Growing Up in New Zealand* team who are here to answer any questions you might have. Our contact details can be found at the end of this document.



What do I need to know about the 17 Year Data Collection Wave?

You can choose how you would like to complete the questionnaire from one of the following:

- Online by yourself.
- Online with the support of an interviewer.

- On the phone with an interviewer.
- In person with an interviewer at an agreed location.

It should take about 45 minutes for you to complete your questionnaire. You can contact a member of our team to help you if you get stuck.

If you do not have a suitable device available to complete the online questionnaires, then we can help. We can arrange for a loan device to be delivered to you so you can take part in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave. This device would have its own mobile data so it would not use your household data. Please let us know if you require this assistance.



Are there any risks involved with taking part in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave?

The risks of taking part in 17 Year Data Collection Wave are similar to those that already exist for the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study as a whole. These include risks to do with the questionnaire itself as well as the datasets that are created from the information you and other participants in *Growing Up in New Zealand* provide to the study. Some of the possible risks include:

- Feeling uncomfortable or upset by some questions.

- The possibility of a data security failure, i.e. someone hacks into the *Growing Up in New Zealand* database.
- The possibility of data being used for non-approved purposes, i.e. data is shared with someone/group who is not an approved researcher.
- Researchers who use the *Growing Up in New Zealand* dataset may come up with answers that make some people and/or communities feel upset because they don't reflect what matters most for them.

Are there any benefits?

The information you provide to *Growing Up in New Zealand* helps researchers to learn more about what supports young people in Aotearoa New Zealand to have a good life. It means they can learn more about:



- Health and wellbeing
- Education, justice and employment
- How services and government assistance can best support young people
- Neighbourhoods and wider society

This information will help current and future researchers, along with the Government and other agencies, to make changes to improve the lives of all young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You will be offered a \$50 gift card as a way of thanking you for your involvement in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave.

What will happen to my information?

All of your questionnaire information will be de-identified - this means that names or other personal details are not attached to your information, so you cannot be individually identified to anyone using the *Growing Up in New Zealand* dataset.

Once that is done, the information you provide as part of the 17 Year Data Collection Wave will be added to all of the other data that the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study has since the study began in 2009/10. This dataset is then available for the *Growing Up in New Zealand* team and other approved researchers to access for research and policy making.

Your right to withdraw from the study

You can choose to stop participating in the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study at any time.

If you decide to take part in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave but change your mind later, then you can let us know by contacting the *Growing Up in New Zealand* team:

Email: contact@growingup.co.nz

Phone: **0508 GROWING UP (0508 476 946)**

If you choose to stop being part of the *Growing Up in New Zealand* study, then we will remove your contact information from our system and stop inviting you to take part.

Information collected from you up until the time you choose not to participate in the study will continue to be used and included in research. If you wish, you may ask for this information to be removed from the research data. It will not be possible to remove your data from any projects that have already analysed your data. However, no future projects will use your data.

Where can I find out the results of the study?

The *Growing Up in New Zealand* team hopes to release the latest research findings in 2027.

We will share a summary of these findings and other examples of the latest research via our website, growingup.co.nz

We also share findings in our regular newsletters and on our social media.

We are not able to share any results from your own personal data.

Who is funding the study?

The study is based at the University of Auckland and funded by the New Zealand government via a contract with the Ministry of Social Development.

This study has been approved by an independent group of people called a Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC), who check that studies meet established ethical standards. The Northern B committee has approved this study (Ref NTY/08/06/055/AM0434).

Who do I contact for more information or if I have concerns?

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the study at any stage, please contact a team member from *Growing Up in New Zealand*.

Phone **0508 GROWING UP (0508 476 946)** or email contact@growingup.co.nz. More information about the study is available at growingup.co.nz.

If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the study, you can contact an independent health and disability advocate on:

Phone: **0800 555 050**
Fax: **0800 2 SUPPORT (0800 2787 7678)**
Email: advocacy@advocacy.org.nz
Website: advocacy.org.nz

You can also contact the health and disability ethics committee (HDEC) that approved this study on:

Email: hdecs@health.govt.nz
Phone: **0800 400 569**
(Ministry of Health general enquiries)

If any of the questions in the 17 Year Data Collection Wave questionnaire have made you feel upset or worried, or raised any issues you would like to discuss with someone outside of the study team, the following organisations may be able to help.

What's Up

What's Up is a free counselling helpline and webchat service for children and teenagers, run by Barnardos.

Phone: **0800 942 8787** or **0800 WHATS UP**
Monday to Friday: 12pm to 11pm and
Saturday and Sunday 3pm to 11pm

Chat online: whatsapp.co.nz
Monday to Friday 1pm to 10am and
Saturday and Sunday 3pm to 10pm

Youthline

There is also Youthline which is a 24/7 "with youth, for youth" organisation that supports young people aged between 12-24 years throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Free 24/7 call: **0800 37 66 33**
Free 24/7 text: **234**
Email: talk@youthline.co.nz
Chat online: youthline.co.nz

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Statement of Approval:

This study has received ethical approval from the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (Ref NTY/08/06/055). Ethical approval means that experts who are not involved with *Growing Up in New Zealand* have checked all of our information and activities, and are happy that there is nothing that would be harmful for you or your family, that information will be kept private, that this study will be helpful for New Zealand families.

Formal Study title: *Growing Up in New Zealand*
Sponsor: Ministry of Social Development
Research Director: Professor Sarah-Jane Paine
Study Site: The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, New Zealand
Ethics committee ref.: NTY/08/06/055/AM0434



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