



Plain Language Statement

Full Project Title: Youth Futures After Mobility (YFAM): a longitudinal study of mobile transitions.

Principal Researchers: Professor Anita Harris, Deakin University
Professor Loretta Baldassar, Edith Cowan University

This Plain Language Statement contains information about this research. Its purpose is to explain to you as openly and clearly as possible all the procedures involved in this study, so that you can make a fully informed decision whether you are going to participate. Please read this Plain Language Statement carefully and feel free to ask questions about any information in the document.

Why have I received this Plain Language Statement?

You have received this Plain Language Statement as you have expressed interest in participating in the Youth Futures After Mobility project as a survey respondent and/or interview participant.

What is the Study About?

Our aim is to understand the life pathways of mobile young people over time, looking at youth coming to or from Australia since 2018. In a previous phase of the study, called the Youth Mobilities, Aspirations & Pathways Project (YMAP) <https://www.ymaproject.org/> we undertook two waves of research to investigate how mobility shapes young people's transitions to adulthood and their economic, social and civic opportunities. This next phase of the research, called Youth Futures After Mobility (YFAM), will shed light on mobile youth growing older and facing decisions about remaining, returning or pursuing onward mobilities, as well as settling and integration after mobility.

What does Participation involve?

This next phase will also have two waves of survey and interviews (to be undertaken between 2026 and 2030). Participation in YFAM involves completing an online survey as well as the option of also doing an online semi-structured interview (approximately 60 minutes).

We estimate it will take at least 20 minutes to complete, but we recommend setting aside half an hour to finish it. You can also stop, return, and continue your survey from where you left off.

Survey and interview questions will focus on topics such as current mobility and future plans, work and family, aspirations for adult life and settling. We will request your consent for each component of the research separately and taking part in one component does not oblige commitment to another.

But I Wasn't Involved in the Earlier Study. Can I Still Participate?

You may not have participated in a wave of the study before. This is normal in longitudinal studies (research conducted over time) and is not a problem: you can still participate now and we hope that you will do so! The YMAP and YFAM projects, combined together, are very important to extend the knowledge on youth mobilities and to inform policy makers of the needs of young people on the move. No research project has ever tracked the hopes and outcomes of young people moving to and from Australia over this period of time, so your contribution is unique and very significant.

Benefits and Risks of Participation

While there may be no direct personal benefits to taking part in the study, it is an opportunity to reflect on and develop insight into the decisions and challenges you experience through your mobility. More broadly, the research will assist policy makers, researchers and service providers better understand opportunities and challenges for mobile youth who contribute so much to the places they move to and from.

Your participation may involve the disclosure of sensitive personal information; for example, issues related to cultural identity, belonging and life plans and hopes will be explored. While it is highly unlikely, there is a potential for you to experience some discomfort or distress when responding to research questions. If this occurs, please contact Lifeline (a 24-hour counselling service) on 13 11 14 if you are in Australia. If you are outside Australia, please contact

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Befrienders Worldwide (they assist with finding an emotional support service in your country) <https://www.befrienders.org/>. Please also feel free to contact the research team directly and we will recommend an appropriate local service (ymap@deakin.edu.au).

Participation in this research project is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw by opting out without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way. To do this you may contact the researchers at any time prior to publication of findings. If you opt out, any data you have already supplied will be destroyed. The only exception to this will be any non-identifiable data that cannot be extracted from the database but can never be linked to you.

Upon completion of the Wave 3 survey, you will have the opportunity to enter a \$1,000 AUD prize draw. Another separate prize draw for \$1,000 AUD will be offered after the completion of the Wave 4 survey in 2028.

What Will Happen to the Information I Provide?

All information gathered from participants will be kept securely on university networked and password protected cloud storage. Only the research team directly associated with the project will have access to the raw data during the project. If you participate in more than one wave, the data you provide will be linked via a code or pseudonym to data you provide in other waves. This is so we can undertake comparative analysis. If you participate in interviews as well as surveys, the data you provide will be linked across these components via a pseudonym. Your non-identifiable data may also be used in future research projects that are extensions of, or closely related to, this original project or in the same general area of research.

All participants will be assigned a code or pseudonym and data used in reports or published findings will not contain names or identifying characteristics. Non-identifiable statistical data from the surveys may be made available to other researchers via university or government open data repositories at the completion of the project, in accordance with institutional open data policies. All the information you supply will be stored securely and it will be de-identified before it would be made to available to any other researcher.

Research findings will be published in reports and academic journals and books. No names or identifying characteristics will be used in any published findings. Updates, progress reports and results of the study can be found on the project website (<https://www.ymaproject.org/>) for you to access any time. The research is funded by the Australian Research Council.

Research Team:

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If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Manager, Integrity, Ethics and Biosafety,

Deakin University,

221 Burwood Highway Burwood Victoria 3125

Telephone: ++61 3 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number #2025/HE000239