



ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Count Us In Study

Formative research on the 2026 Census questions on gender and sexual orientation

Protocol Co-chair: Dr Mo Hammoud
LGBTQ+ Population Health Research Group
Kirby Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney

1. What is the research study about?

For the first time, the 2026 Census will ask all people aged 16 and over about their gender and sexual orientation. There are many uncertainties about how people will respond. The questions are new, some people may not complete the Census themselves, and others may not feel safe or comfortable sharing this information.

We want to understand:

- How LGBTQ+ people plan to answer the Census questions.
- How parents, caregivers, or other adults who live with and care for LGBTQ+ people plan to answer.
- Whether the Census questions align with how people describe their gender or sexuality.
- How factors like privacy and household relationships could affect Census responses.

This is important because Census data informs how governments direct funding, services, and policy decisions. Understanding how people are likely to respond will help ensure LGBTQ+ people and households are properly counted and represented.

2. Who is conducting this research?

Protocol Co-chairs:

- Dr Mo Hammoud, LGBTQ+ Population Health Research Group, Kirby Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney.
- Associate Professor Benjamin Bavinton, Biobehavioural Prevention Research Group, Kirby Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney.

Co-investigators:

- Professor Adam Bourne, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.
- Dr Natalie Amos, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.
- Associate Professor Bridget Haire, Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney.
- Professor Martin Holt, Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney.
- Associate Professor Julie Mooney-Sommers, Sydney Health Ethics, University of Sydney.
- Dr Anthony K J Smith, Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney.

Research Team:

- Cat Londos, LGBTQ+ Population Health Research Group, Kirby Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney.
- Bella Bushby, LGBTQ+ Population Health Research Group, Kirby Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney.

Research Funder: This research is being funded through internal resources provided by the research team.

3. Inclusion Criteria

To take part in this study, you must:

- Be aged 16 years or older.
- Be currently living in Australia.

And you must also meet at least one of the following:

- Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or another diverse sexual orientation.
- Identify as transgender, non-binary, or another diverse gender.
- Be a parent, caregiver, or other adult who lives with and cares for an LGBTQ+ person.



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- Have had sex in the past 12 months with someone of the same gender, or with a trans or non-binary person.

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in any research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully. If you have any questions, you can contact the research team at LGBTQResearch@unsw.edu.au.
- Complete the online questionnaire.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the study, you will complete a 10 to 15 minute online questionnaire. It will include:

- Questions about you, such as your age, gender, sexual orientation, and other background details. This helps us understand who is taking part and how different people might respond to the Census.
- Either how you plan to answer the gender and sexual orientation questions in the upcoming Census or how you think someone else would report your details if answering on your behalf. This helps us understand how people interpret the questions and how proxy reporting might affect data accuracy.
- Your attitudes and opinions about the Census questions, including whether they feel accurate or reflect how you actually identify. This helps us assess whether the questions are meaningful and inclusive.

Data from the online questionnaire will be collected and securely stored through the REDCap Survey Platform hosted at UNSW Sydney. Some people may find the topics sensitive or feel emotional distress when reflecting on their gender, sexuality, or experiences. If this happens, you can skip any questions, stop the survey at any time by closing your browser, and access free support services listed below. You can also contact the research team at LGBTQResearch@unsw.edu.au.

6. What are the possible benefits to participation?

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part in this study. However, your responses may help improve how data about LGBTQ+ people is understood and used. Census data informs how governments make decisions about funding, services, and policies. This study will support more accurate interpretation of the 2026 Census by exploring how LGBTQ+ people and households are likely to respond. It may also contribute to more inclusive and respectful data practices in future research and policy settings.

7. What will happen to information about me?

This is an anonymous survey. We will not collect your name, contact details, or any other identifying information in your survey responses. Your data will be stored in a non-identifiable format, and your identity will remain unknown.

Your deidentified survey responses may also be stored and used in future ethically approved research on LGBTQ+ population health, census methods, or related public health topics. Any future use will involve de identified data only and will occur under appropriate ethics or governance approvals. We will not release raw data publicly.

By clicking the 'I consent' button, you are providing consent to take part in this study and allowing the research team to collect and use your responses for research purposes.



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If you choose to take part in a future follow up study, you can provide your contact details. Providing your contact details is optional. If you do, that information will be stored separately from your survey answers and you can request that they are deleted at any time by emailing LGBTQResearch@unsw.edu.au – this does not affect your survey responses, which are anonymous and can't be withdrawn once submitted. If you ask for your contact details to be deleted, the research team will do this within five business days and send you confirmation when complete.

All data will be stored securely for at least seven years after the study is completed.

8. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you. If you would like to receive the results, you can provide your email address at the end of the survey. This will be stored separately from your survey responses and used only to send you the results.

9. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you choose to take part, you can stop at any time by closing the questionnaire. However, because the survey is anonymous, your responses cannot be withdrawn once submitted.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Name	Cat Londos
Position	Research Manager
Telephone	+61 2 9348 3127
Email	LGBTQResearch@unsw.edu.au

11. What if I need support from someone not involved in this research?

If at any stage during the study you become distressed or require additional support, you can contact the following services:

Organisation	Lifeline
Telephone	13 11 14
Text message	0477 131 114
Webchat	lifeline.org.au/chat
Website	https://www.lifeline.org.au
Operating hours	24 hours a day, 7 days a week



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Organisation	QLife
Telephone	1800 184 527
Webchat	qlife.org.au/ and click "Webchat"
Website	https://www.qlife.org.au
Operating hours	3:00pm to 9:00pm (local time), 7 days a week

Organisation	BeyondBlue
Telephone	1300 224 636
Webchat	beyondblue.org.au/get-support/talk-to-a-counsellor/chat
Website	https://www.beyondblue.org.au
Operating hours	24 hours a day, 7 days a week

12. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Position	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
iRECS Identifier	8858



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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

By checking the I agree/start questionnaire option below:

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study.
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or it has been provided to me in a language that I understand.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I understand that if necessary, I can ask questions and the research team will respond to my questions.
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members.
- I understand that I can download a copy of this consent form from [the study website](#).

I consent to take part in this study

Optional Consents

You can still take part in this study even if you say no to any of the below

Please let us know if you would like to:

- Be contacted about a follow-up study after the Census.
- Be contacted about other future research studies that may be relevant to you.
- Receive a summary of the study results when they are available.

Email Address: _____