



# Linking your Higher Education (university) records to your LSAY data

Help us piece together a picture of what life is like for young people in Australia.

## What is data linkage?

Data linkage brings together information from a number of data sources. Linking Higher Education (university) records with the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) data can help researchers and policy makers gain new insights into issues that influence the pathways of young Australians. That's why we are asking for your consent to add your Higher Education data to your LSAY responses.

## What data are being linked?

The LSAY questionnaire asks young people about their education, employment and wellbeing. The Higher Education Information Management System contains information about the qualifications and subjects students are studying, where and when they are studying, as well as the outcomes of their study.

## Do I need to do anything?

There's not much to it—all you have to do is grant us consent and we will do the rest.

After you take your survey, your contact details will be used to link together your Higher Education (university) records to your survey results.



### Four reasons to link your university records with your LSAY results:

1. Further insights into young people's educational pathways.
2. Expand the range and improve the quality of the data.
3. Help build better programmes for youth.
4. Streamline LSAY interview questions, allowing us to discover more interesting things about you!

## Who's who in data linkage

**Wallis Market & Social Research (Wallis)** conducts the LSAY interviews and manages the collection of the survey data.

**Australian Government Department of Education and Training** funds the LSAY program and collects and manages the Higher Education (university) data.

**National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)** manages the LSAY program and links your Higher Education records to your survey data.

**Australian Data Archive (ADA)** stores and protects your LSAY and linked Higher Education data and provides the data to approved researchers.

# If you have done any university study, we would like your permission to add this information to your LSAY responses. This will help us achieve so much

## Do I have to give consent?

Giving your consent is voluntary, which means it is completely up to you. By providing your consent you are allowing your survey results to be linked to any Higher Education study you have already done or might do in the future.

## I've changed my mind, can I withdraw my consent?

You can withdraw your consent to link your data at any stage by contacting [Wallis](#) (see details below), however any data that have already been linked will be retained. If you choose not to provide consent, you can still continue to be part of the survey.

## I'm no longer part of LSAY, what happens to my Higher Education data?

If you withdraw from the survey, we will continue to link to any other Higher Education study you might do. So make sure you let us know if you'd like to withdraw your consent to link your data.

## Is my privacy protected?

Your personal information will be handled in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

Your contact details will only be held by Wallis. NCVER do not have access to any personal contact details. All personal details are removed by the Department of Education and Training before your linked data is passed on to NCVER.

When researchers use the data all the information is grouped together so you can't be identified and all data are stored on secure servers with access restrictions. For more information see the [LSAY privacy notice](#).

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## How your data are linked



### 1. Consent given

If you provide your consent, Wallis (the same organisation that conducts your LSAY interviews) will send your details (name, date of birth, email, phone number and address) along with a unique linking ID to the Department of Education and Training.

### 2. Matching details with Higher Education (university) data

The Department of Education and Training will match your LSAY contact details with the contact details on your Higher Education records.

The Department will then locate your study information reported to the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) (e.g. what you studied, where and when you studied, as well as your study outcomes). After removing your contact details, the Department will provide your Higher Education records along with your unique linking ID to NCVER.



### 3. Linking Higher Education and LSAY

NCVER will use your unique linking ID to link your Higher Education study information to your LSAY records. The linking ID will then be removed and the linked data provided to the Australian Data Archive (ADA).



### 4. Making the data available

The linked data will be stored with the ADA and can only be accessed through a formal approval process. Your contact details will not be included and the data cannot be used to identify you.



### 5. Building a better picture

Researchers and policy makers will use your linked data to help better understand and improve education and training for future generations.

