

# Information sheet

for young people

whataboutme.nz  
The biggest survey of your generation



## Kia ora!

You are invited to take part in a survey called **whataboutme.nz**. This Information Sheet will help you decide if you'd like to take part. It explains why we are doing the survey, what you need to do if you take part, what taking part might mean for you, and what will happen after the survey ends.

Your community has been randomly chosen to be part of **whataboutme.nz** – a new Youth Health and Wellbeing survey. We want to hear from 14,000 young people throughout Aotearoa about their health and wellbeing, and what is important to them. The survey will happen in 2021.

## ■ What is the survey for?

What young people say in the survey will give government, other agencies and researchers information to help them develop policies and services to:

- support healthy development as young people grow into adulthood
- keep track of government-funded policies and programmes to make sure they are working for young people
- get better outcomes for young people through helping to improve policies and services

## ■ Is it anonymous?

People at school will know if you have been invited to take part. They will not know if you agree to take part or what you say in the survey. No names will be used. Nobody, including the research team, schools, education providers, Youth-One-Stop Shops or anyone in government will know what you say in your answers.

## ■ Who is invited to take part?

We will be going to places where young people are - like schools, kura kaupapa, Youth One-Stop-Shops and alternative education places. We will ask you to fill in the survey on a tablet. Our research team or a trained person like a youth worker will be there when you fill in the survey.

## ■ How long will it take?

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

## ■ What are the questions about?

The survey asks you questions about:

- you – like your age, ethnicity, gender and sexual identity, where you were born, and the languages you speak
- your family, whānau and home – where you live, who you live with and who looks after you
- your education, work and plans for the future – whether you go to school or not, what you think about school, whether you work in paid or unpaid jobs and what you want to do in the future
- your community and neighbourhood – how you feel about the community you live in, groups you belong to and volunteering
- your relationships and your friends – including sexual relationships and contraception, and use of pornography
- how you feel about life overall – your satisfaction with life, your physical and mental health, if you feel you belong, accepted and safe
- safety and things that might not be good in your life now or in the past – types of risky behaviours and addictions, if you have experienced discrimination or abuse, verbal or physical violence, self-harm or had thoughts about suicide
- where you would go if you need help.

At the end of the survey you will have a chance to tell us about one thing that would help you to have a good life now and in the future.

A copy of the full questionnaire can be seen on our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz)

If any of the questions upset you, you don't have to answer them. You can skip questions or stop the survey at any time.

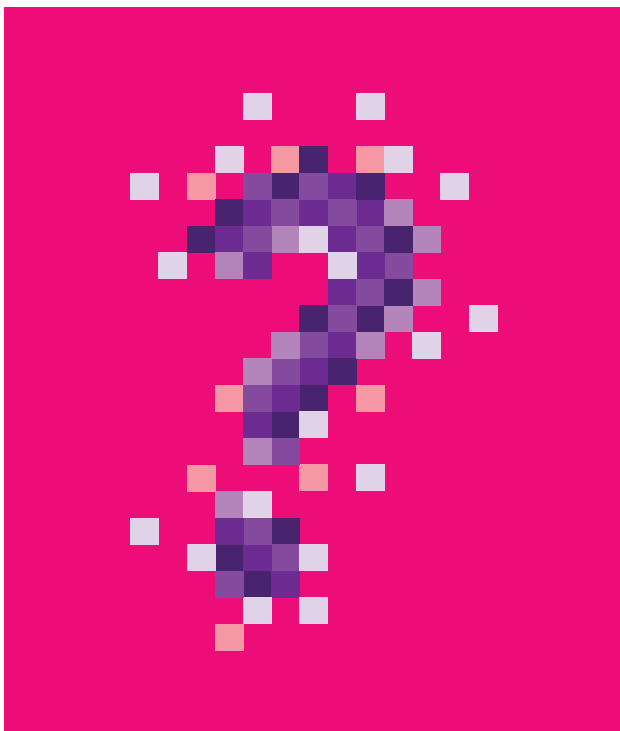
## ■ What do I do if I want to talk with someone after the survey?

We will give you information about Youthline and other places in schools and communities where you can go for support. Support services will know about the survey. A copy of a list of services available to support you can be seen on our website.

## ■ Do I have to take part?

NO. You can choose to take part or not. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason, and it won't affect the education or the care you receive. If you do want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can pull out of the survey at any time or skip any questions you don't want to answer.

You do not have to decide today if you will take part in this survey. We encourage you to discuss this survey with your family, whānau or aiga or friends and decide together if you will take part or not. If you decide not to do the survey, you can let your school know, call us on 0800 002 577, fill in a form on our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz), or just say no on the day we ask you to take part.



## ■ What are any risks to taking part?

There are some risks that you may feel upset or worried because of questions about things that are not going well in your life. For example, the survey includes questions about violence, bullying, discrimination and abuse you may have experienced. You can skip these questions. We will give you information about where you can go for support.

## ■ What will happen to my information?

The information will be used in research and to write reports. Summary reports and tables will be available online and sent to schools and other places that help with the survey. None of the reports or tables will identify any person who has taken part in the survey. Our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz) will have lots of information about the progress of the survey and the findings.

Information will be stored securely and used to compare findings with later surveys. It will be held at StatsNZ or a similar safe place and will be available to academics, government agencies and others to help them with their work with young people.

## ■ What happens if I decide to take part?

If you are asked to take part at school, the rest of the class will usually be asked to complete the survey. We will discuss everything on this information sheet with the group and answer any questions. You will then start the survey. On the first page of the survey you will be asked to consent to taking part. After you start the survey you can still decide to skip questions or stop doing it.

You can find out more on our website [whataboutme.nz](http://whataboutme.nz) and you can call us anytime on 0800 002 577.

## ■ Who is paying for the survey?

Government through the Ministry of Social Development has commissioned us to run this survey.

## ■ Who is carrying out the work?

Our company is called Malatest International. The person in charge of the survey is Debbie McLeod. You can find out more about us on our website [www.malatest-intl.com](http://www.malatest-intl.com). You can call us on 0800 002 577.

## ■ 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, you can contact us by calling:

**Malatest International:** Stewart Graham,  
[info@whataboutme.nz](mailto:info@whataboutme.nz), 0800 002 577

**Ministry of Social Development:** Melissa Cathro, Policy Manager, Child and Youth Policy, 029 201 4290 or [melissa.cathro002@msd.govt.nz](mailto:melissa.cathro002@msd.govt.nz)

**Māori advisor:** Carel Smith [carel@arosolutions.co.nz](mailto:carel@arosolutions.co.nz) or leave a message at 0800 002 577

The study has been approved by the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (Reference 19/CEN/68). If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the study, you can call an independent health and disability advocate on **0800 555 050** or email [advocacy@advocacy.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@advocacy.org.nz). You can also call the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC) that approved this study on **0800 4 ETHICS** or email [hdec@moh.govt.nz](mailto:hdec@moh.govt.nz)

The Health Research Council Ethics Committee has approved the study for young people aged 12 and 13.