

ABS Health Surveys – Have Your Say: Frequently Asked Questions



How do I find out when and where these sessions are available?

Go to the [ETMP](#) website to register your interest for a session, email coeatsis@abs.gov.au or contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory for more information about the sessions.

How do I register for the webinar session?

Go to the [ETMP](#) website to register your interest for a webinar session or contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory for more information about the sessions.

Can I bring along participants who have not registered for a webinar session?

Yes, you may bring along participants who have not registered for a session. Please contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory who will assist you with your enquiry.

If I participate in a webinar session do I have to talk?

No, you do not have to talk in a webinar session if you are not comfortable to talk in a group setting. There is a chat option available to ask any questions and an ABS staff member will respond with the answer. Alternatively, you can 'have you say' through the [online survey](#) on the ABS website.

I have a group of staff who would like to participate in a session. How can we organise that?

Contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory for more information about booking a group session for your organisation. Alternatively, you can register your interest individually on the [ETMP](#) website for a webinar session.

What are the topics that will be covered in the sessions?

Survey Content – what will be included in the survey

Biomedicals – taking small samples of blood, urine and saliva

Data Integration – brings together data from multiple sources

Will I be informed of decisions made by the ABS in regards to the topics of the sessions?

No, the feedback you provide will be used to help design the survey and is vital to assisting the ABS to develop the questions in the survey.

Is there any cost involved?

No costs involved to participate in the sessions

What happens if I can't make a session I'm registered for?

If you can't make a session you have registered for please contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory to let them know.

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Will other people be attending these sessions?

Yes, anyone in Australia can register and attend the sessions

How do I register for the online self-paced sessions?

Go to the [ETMP](#) website to access the online self-paced consultation package or contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory for more information.

What happens if I cannot access the online survey?

If you cannot access the [online survey](#) on the ABS website contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state/territory who will assist you with other options available to have your say.

Why am I, as an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander person required to assist in the planning of the health surveys?

Your views and ideas are important. This is an opportunity for you to have your say on how these surveys are run and to ensure they are culturally appropriate and that the information is useful for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

How do the ABS want me to assist?

The ABS is committed to providing a range of opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide feedback and we are asking you to tell us your thoughts and suggestions on all elements of the proposed health survey including how and what information should be collected.

Is the information I provide confidential?

All information provided is confidential. The ABS take data security very seriously and keeping information confidential and protecting your privacy is our priority. We comply with the *Privacy Act 1988*, the Australian Privacy Principles and ABS legislation. The information you provide will only be used for its intended and agreed purposes.

What happens to the information I provide in a consultation session?

Information collected will be collated and used to help shape and design the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander components of the IHMHS.

If I participate in the biomedical tests of taking my blood, what happens to my blood after testing?

If you choose to participate in the biomedical tests component, your samples will be held at the pathology laboratory until the end of the survey, in case there is a need to retest any for quality assurance purposes. At the completion of the survey, all samples will be disposed of according to standard lab protocols.

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What happens to information I provide if I participate in the health surveys?

Once the surveys are finished, the ABS puts all the information together and publishes it. This data is about all people. This means you cannot be identified and your personal information remains safe with the ABS.

What outcomes will I see implemented from the health surveys?

The information from the health surveys will provide a better picture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and well-being; inform policy, services and programs to help people live healthier and happier lives.

How can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities access information from the health surveys?

Once the results are published on the ABS website everyone will have access to the data. Alternatively, you can contact an [engagement manager or officer](#) in your state who can assist you with your enquiry.

Who is the data custodian of any data collected in the health surveys?

The ABS is the custodian of all data collected in ABS surveys. All information is collected under the Census and Statistics Act 1905 - this legislation means that the ABS must protect the data and not release any information that could lead to a person being identified. The ABS will never provide your identifiable personal information to any government department or organisation.

How can I access the data that is collected in the health surveys?

Data from the health surveys will be published on the ABS website in the form of tables, commentary and fact sheets - this can be accessed for free by anyone who has Internet connection. The ABS also provides access to detailed datasets for Community-Controlled organisations and other Aboriginal organisations, so they can build their own tables and do research. For more information, you can contact one of our Engagement Managers.