

**Who do I talk to if I still have questions
or if there are other issues that concern
me?**

Some of the questions in the survey deal with issues which you may have some questions about or for which you may wish to seek assistance. If you want any further information about the survey or would like advice about where to go to obtain specific health care, personal or family assistance please call the WA Aboriginal Child Health Surve on 08 9489 7777.



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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY



Information for Parents

What is the purpose of the Aboriginal Child Health Survey?

This is a survey to study the health and well being of Western Australian Aboriginal children, teenagers and their families. The survey asks questions about how Aboriginal families work together and about their problems and achievements.

How will the results of the survey be used?

The results of the survey will be used to plan programs to upgrade services in education, social welfare, housing, justice, health and other government and private organisations focused on the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and their families.

The community pays for the social costs of poor health and it has a stake in promoting health through prevention. To be effective, prevention programs need to be based on a proper understanding of how problems develop, and knowledge of what makes them better or worse.

Who will conduct the survey?

The TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, located at Princess Margaret Hospital will conduct the survey. A steering committee made up of Aboriginal people has been set up to assist and oversee the general operation of the survey.

How have households been selected?

Households have been selected using a random process that gives each household an equal chance of being picked to participate.

Is the survey compulsory?

No. Your participation is voluntary. To take part in the survey we will require your consent.

What does the survey require me to do?

The study involves you answering a series of questions asked by a trained interviewer. You will be interviewed about each child in the family who is between birth and 17 years of age. Children 12 years and older will be asked to fill in a questionnaire assisted by an interviewer. Consent will be requested to approach each child's school for information about their behaviour and skills at school. You will also be asked for permission to access health information about your child's birth and hospital records.

Who developed the interviews and questions used in the survey?

The interviews and questions were created by a number of people working in the areas of education, health and welfare along with input and advice from the Aboriginal Community.

What kinds of questions will be asked?

The interviews and questions concern aspects of health and family life. You will be asked about each child's birth and development, health and illnesses, and emotional and behavioural development. You will also be asked about your health and well-being, use of public and private services, and the quality of your place, including partners.

Must every question be answered?

Since participation is voluntary, you are not required to answer certain questions if you choose. However, in order for the results of the survey to be useful and meaningful, you are encouraged to answer all questions as completely as possible.

How will confidentiality be assured?

Names and addresses are separated from the information that is recorded in the computer. No names or identifying information will ever be released. The TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research is bound by national guidelines on the confidentiality of health information and the requirements of the Health Department of Western Australia.