

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

#### National Seniors Social Survey (8)

Professor John McCallum, CEO

#### Introduction

You are being invited to participate in this survey because we are interested in the views of older Australians. This information is for you, the study participant, to inform you about the survey purposes and processes, for example those relating to the privacy of the information you provide.

#### Purpose of the Study

The National Seniors Social Survey is an annual survey which National Seniors conducts to obtain the views of those aged 50+ years on policies and matters related to the wellbeing of senior Australians. By surveying our members and the broader community, we obtain information that can be used to enhance our understanding of Australians' views and experiences. The survey also provides a source of information which National Seniors can use to lobby governments on policies that are of interest to our members. Policy and advocacy submissions that have been informed by previous survey results can be found at <https://nationalseniors.com.au/advocacy/public-submissions>

#### Study Procedure

All participants in the study are aged 50 years or over. The invitation to participate in the study includes login details to enable completion of the survey online.

If you agree to take part, your participation will involve completing the survey by the link provided, which will take about 30 to 45 minutes, depending on your speed and the responses you give. If you cannot complete the survey in one sitting, you can return later to complete the questions. So long as you do not shut your browser or computer, the survey should remain open where you left it. The survey automatically saves your answers each time you press the "Next" button, so you never need to re-enter your responses.

No questions are compulsory, and you may skip any questions that you wish. You will be asked questions about your experiences, behaviours and attitudes across a range of topics including caring for others, health care preferences and costs, healthy lifestyle and employment and financial wellbeing. It's possible that you may have participated in our study previously, because the survey is conducted annually.

As part of the National Seniors Social Survey, a small number of follow-up interviews will be conducted. If you are willing to be interviewed by phone, you will be asked to enter your contact details at the end of the survey. You may be asked about your responses to some of the survey questions, for example your experiences of providing care or the support you would need to improve your fitness. Follow-up phone calls will take approximately 30 minutes.

If you are willing to answer further questions by email, you will be asked to enter your contact details at the end of the survey. The follow-up email will consist of one or two questions only.

It is not compulsory to enter your details at the end of the questionnaire.

#### Benefits

We are seeking your support in contributing to a study that will help improve the understanding of the factors associated with senior wellbeing. This can, in future, help individuals make better informed choices across a

range of areas of life. The information, through our lobbying, may also assist governments and the financial, health and social sectors to develop programs that provide seniors with the information and support they need for positive ageing.

### **Risks**

We do not anticipate any risks associated with your participation in this question and answer study. However, if answering any of the questions causes you distress, please contact the Chief Investigator of the study, Professor John McCallum, on 02 6133 7910 or at [j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au](mailto:j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au), or contact beyondblue (1300 22 4636) or Lifeline (13 11 14). Alternatively, if the survey has raised questions regarding your well-being, finances and life-style, helpful information is available on our website <https://nationalseniors.com.au/> or contact National Seniors on (07) 32339191 – 8:30 to 5:00pm (AEST) or at [general@nationalseniors.com.au](mailto:general@nationalseniors.com.au)

### **Voluntary Participation/Right to Refuse or Withdraw**

You are under no obligation to be involved in this study and participation is entirely voluntary. Your decision will not affect your relationship with National Seniors Australia if you are a member. If you decide to take part by beginning the online survey and then change your mind, you may close your browser at any time, at which point no more data will be collected from you. If you choose to enter your contact details to consent to a follow-up interview, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage by either declining to be interviewed if you receive a phone call from National Seniors or by obtaining and completing a Revocation of Consent Form. Please contact the office of National Seniors Director of Research on 02 6133 7910 or at [j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au](mailto:j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au) for a copy of this form. You may also decide during the follow-up interview to cease answering questions at any time. You do not have to give a reason for withdrawing and will not be disadvantaged in any way if you make a decision to withdraw from the study. Because all electronic data are de-identified, if you do decide to withdraw from the study, the information collected about you up to the point when you withdrew may continue to be used.

### **Confidentiality**

Your records relating to this study and any other information received will be kept strictly confidential. Electronic survey data will be stored on password-protected servers, with access restricted to National Seniors research staff with the exception of de-identified financial information that will be available to research staff at Challenger Ltd for reporting purposes only. National Seniors and Challenger Ltd have internal protections and security systems which provide further assurances. Additionally, participant responses will be stored by SurveyMonkey®, the online U.S research tool used to create the survey. Participants should note that some data derived from your participation in this study will be sent overseas; the regulatory regimes governing data access and use in other countries may not be the same as those that are in place in Australia. If you have any questions about this direct them to the Principal Investigator. The National Seniors Privacy Policy for disclosure about National Seniors use of service providers located in other countries and the collection of your personal information in National Seniors surveys can be seen here: <https://nationalseniors.com.au/privacy-policy>. The researchers do not have access to details that may identify you, e.g. name, address and National Seniors membership number (if applicable). When storing the survey responses electronically for the purpose of analysis, your National Seniors membership number is never used, only a de-identified ID number. For National Seniors members, your personal email address will not continue to be associated with your survey responses after the study.

If you choose to be available for a subsequent interview about some topics, these procedures will apply after that interview is completed. Your comments will be cleared of any identifying comments after the interview is completed and will be used in a general way to understand the reasons and contexts for particular answers and your contact details will be removed from all survey files.

The information provided will be used solely for the purposes of this research project. All reports, publications and presentations arising from the study will be in group format to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of all participants.

## **Results of the Project**

Study findings will be publicly available on the National Seniors website ([nationalseniors.com.au](http://nationalseniors.com.au)) in [electronic format as reports and research news](#). National Seniors Australia members will be alerted via correspondence received as part of their membership, e.g. emails, newsletters and website updates. Hard copies of reports will also be available on request. Findings may also be presented at national conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals.

National Seniors will also produce reports from the survey in collaboration with our commercial partner Challenger Limited, and our government supporter, the Commonwealth Department of Health. As well as individual members, National Seniors has several Corporate members with whom it has philanthropic and membership-sharing arrangements. Challenger is a corporate member. Challenger is a major, Sydney-based, firm specialising in annuities. It has had a number of 'corporate social responsibility' type agreements with National Seniors Australia over the years since March 2010 and provides support for National Seniors research as well as a range of other matters such as philanthropic support.

## **Consent**

Completing and submitting the survey online will be taken as indicating that you have read and understood this Participant Information Statement and that you have consented to participate in the study.

## **Ethics approval**

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) – incorporating all updates. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Committee Chair, Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee on 08 8361 3222.

## **Support**

This research is co-funded by National Seniors Australia, Challenger Ltd. and the Commonwealth Department of Health.

## **Further Information and Contacts**

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

If you have any further questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact the CEO Professor John McCallum on 02 6133 7910 or by emailing [j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au](mailto:j.mccallum@nationalseniors.com.au).