INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

You are invited to participate

You are invited to participate in a national research project entitled the **National Student Safety Survey 2026**.

This project is being conducted by Roy Morgan, an independent research firm, on behalf of Universities Australia (UA), the peak body representing Australian Universities. You have been invited because you are a current enrolled student at one of UA's 38 member universities. Roy Morgan has sent you an invitation email on behalf of your university.

This Participant Information Sheet is designed to help you make an informed decision about whether to take part. It explains what the Survey is about, what you'll be asked to do, and how your responses will be handled. Please read it carefully.

If you have further questions, please refer to the study's **Frequently Asked Questions page** for more details on how the project will be conducted or contact the research team via the details provided below.

Project explanation

All students aged 16 years or older, who were currently enrolled onshore in a course on 30th June 2026 at Australia's 38 **UA member universities**, have the opportunity to complete this Survey. Your participation is voluntary, and you will be asked to provide your consent to participate before the Survey begins.

This Survey includes questions that ask about:

- education you have received on sex and relationships,
- how you feel navigating sexual interactions,
- your perceptions and attitudes towards sexual violence or harm, and
- your experiences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and technology-facilitated sexual violence

If you have experienced sexual violence or harm, you'll also be asked about:

- your awareness of, and experiences using, support and reporting pathways at your university.

This Survey includes some open-ended questions, where you can share your experiences in your own words.

For more information about who is eligible to complete the survey, please refer to the study's **Frequently Asked Questions page**.

What will I be asked to do?

If you are an eligible, enrolled university student during the Survey period, you will receive an email from safetysurvey@roymorgan.com with a unique link to access the Survey. You will have four (4) weeks from the day you receive your unique link to consider your choice to participate in and complete the Survey.

Participation in this Survey is voluntary and you can discuss your decision to take part with family, friends, community, Elders or anyone else you trust. The decision to participate or not participate in this project will not affect your relationship with your university or Universities Australia, or any of its member universities.

The Survey usually takes **15 to 25 minutes** to complete, depending on your answers and how many of the questions you choose to respond to.

If you choose to take part, you will be asked questions about how safe you feel at your university. This includes questions about any experiences of sexual violence or harm you may have had since starting at your current

university. You will also be asked about what you know and your experiences with support services and reporting pathways at your university. You will be asked to answer some basic background questions (such as age or study level). You will not be asked to give your name or any other information that could identify you.

You do not have to answer all of the questions in the Survey. You can skip any question by selecting *'Prefer not to say*', give brief answers, take a break, or stop at any time. Your wellbeing is the priority. If you take a break, your progress will be saved automatically and securely. By clicking the link in your email, you'll return to where you left off. If you need to urgently leave the Survey, clicking the "Quick Exit" button at the top of each page will immediately close the Survey.

Your unique invitation link will expire once you complete the Survey or the Survey period ends; you can only submit your responses to the Survey once. If you complete and submit the Survey and wish to withdraw your responses from the study, you can request your responses be removed by emailing the Survey provider at safetysurvey@roymorgan.com by **19th October 2026**.Your responses will not form part of the dataset.

You can complete the Survey on your smart phone, tablet device, laptop or desktop. The online Survey is compatible with screen-readers and other assistive technology. If you are not able to complete the Survey on a device, you may request to complete the Survey in hardcopy form. Please refer to your invitation email for more information about these options.

What will I gain from participating?

There are no payments or reimbursements involved in participation.

Your responses will help make improvements to prevention strategies, response pathways, and student wellbeing supports at your university and others across Australia. Specifically, your responses will:

- help your university understand student help-seeking and reporting behaviours and preferences,
- help your university understand the context in which experiences of sexual violence or harm occur, and
- inform the delivery of universities' student safety and wellbeing services.

Universities Australia plans to release a report on the national findings in 2027.

How will the information I give be used?

Once the Survey period ends, Roy Morgan will carefully remove any identifying information (i.e. email addresses) from your submitted responses, including free-text questions, and your data will be permanently de-identified. However, if you have disclosed a current or historical case of alleged child sexual abuse, Roy Morgan may be required by state or territory law to share your survey responses and student email address with authorities. While completing the Survey, you will be notified if reporting obligations may apply to your responses. To learn more about Roy Morgan's reporting obligations, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page.**

Your university and Universities Australia will only receive the de-identified data. They will not receive any information about who completed (or did not complete) the Survey. If a report is shared with authorities, Roy Morgan will not share any details about what you have said to your university. The university will only be told that a report has been referred to authorities. Police or other authorities may reach out to you or your university to talk about what happens next, but how the matter proceeds is up to them. Support will continue to be available to you, whatever you decide to do.

Your answers will be combined with the responses from other students at your university and across Australia for analysis to produce a national report on the findings. Universities will also use the data to inform their analysis and report on their obligations under *the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence*. It is also possible that the Survey results will be referenced in other reports, conferences, presentations, academic publications and in media reporting following publication of the final report. Results will only be shared at an aggregated level — no individual will be identified in any reports.

What are the potential risks of participating in this project?

The Survey asks direct questions about your experiences of sexual violence or harm. Some people may find it uncomfortable to be asked about experiences or views they consider personal and private. That's completely okay. You choose what you want to share.

You can skip any question by selecting *'Prefer not to say'*, give brief answers, take a break, or stop at any time. **Your wellbeing is the priority.** If you take a break, your progress will be saved automatically and securely, and by clicking the link in your email you'll return to where you left off.

If you feel distressed and you would like to speak to someone and seek support and/or advice, you can access 24/7 free and confidential support from trained counsellors by calling the **National Student Safety Survey Counselling Line** on **1800 572 224.** The Counselling Line is a dedicated service established to support anyone affected by topics covered in the survey, including participants seeking support for themselves, or guidance on supporting others. The Counselling Line is independently provided by Full Stop Australia, who are a specialist sexual, domestic and family violence, counselling service.

Information on a number of available free and confidential support services will be provided to you during the Survey and in follow-up communications. It is also provided in the "Where can I find support?" section below.

Please be aware that, in some circumstances, Roy Morgan may be required by law to contact authorities in your state or territory if you disclose a current or historical case of alleged child sexual abuse. These obligations may apply where the harm experienced as a child occurred in any setting, not just those related to university. In NSW, some kinds of sexual violence or harm experienced by adults must be reported to police.

Roy Morgan's obligations to report to police depend on several factors, including:

- the state or territory where your university campus is located,
- the nature of the experience disclosed, and
- your age at the time of completing the Survey and at the time the disclosed experience happened.

While completing the Survey, you will be notified if reporting obligations may apply to your responses. To learn more about Roy Morgan's reporting obligations, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page**.

If a report is shared with authorities, Roy Morgan will not share any details about what you have said to your university. The university will only be told that a report has been referred to authorities. Police or other authorities may reach out to you or your university to talk about what happens next, but how the matter proceeds is up to them. Support will continue to be available to you, whatever you decide to do.

How will this project be conducted?

This project will be conducted in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). You can find out more about Roy Morgan's Privacy Policy on their **website** or by calling 1800 687 254.

Your university provided Roy Morgan with your student email address so that Survey links could be distributed. Your responses will only be linked to your email address during the data collection phase. No names or identifying information are collected as part of the Survey itself. If you choose to include identifying details in the open-ended (free-text) questions, Roy Morgan will remove this information before responses are analysed.

Once you submit your response or the Survey period ends, this information will be removed and your data will be permanently de-identified. All data is stored on secure servers in Australia, accessible only to authorised Roy Morgan researchers. De-identified data will be retained for at least five years in line with national ethical standards.

Who is conducting the study?

The research is funded by Universities Australia, the peak body for the Australian university sector. Roy Morgan, an independent research company, has been commissioned to conduct the Survey.

The Chief Investigator of this project is Dr Aida Ghalebeigi, supported by Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon.

If you want more information about the project, you can contact the research team via email at safetysurvey@roymorgan.com.

Any queries about your participation in this Survey may be directed to the Chief Investigator listed above.
If you have any queries or complaints about the way you have been treated, you may contact the Ethics Secretary, Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee, Office for Research, Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, VIC, 8001, email researchethics@vu.edu.au or phone (03) 9919 4781 or 4461. Please quote HREC reference in your enquiry: EXT_HRE26-001].

This research will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2023), issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the *AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research* (2020). The *National Statement* and *Code* provide the guidelines by which the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee and other Human Research Ethics Committees operate.

Where can I find support?

Your wellbeing is the priority. If the topics raised in the Survey cause you any distress, you can access **24/7 free and confidential support** from trained counsellors by calling the **National Student Safety Survey Counselling Line** on **1800 572 224**.

Information on other supports, including services provided at your university, is available on each page of the Survey or in the list below:

1800 RESPECT – *Available 24/7*: 1800 737 732 – 1800respect.org.au
Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline – *Available 24/7***:** 1800 497 212
Full Stop Australia – *Available 24/7***:** 1800 385 578 [general support line] – fullstop.org.au
MensLine Australia – *Available 24/7***:** 1300 789 978 – mensline.org.au
Lifeline – *Available 24/7*: 13 11 14 – lifeline.org.au
13YARN – *Available 24/7*: 13 92 76 – 13YARN.org.au
QLife – *Available 3pm-9pm locally***:** 1800 184 527 – qlife.org.au

Your university's support resources are available at:
Survey Website: https://NSSS.edu.au/support

More support resources are available at:
Relationships Australia: www.relationships.org.au
Find A Helpline: https://findahelpline.com/au
WellMob (Indigenous support): https://wellmob.org.au/

For information about making complaints about a higher education provider:
National Student Ombudsman (NSO) – *Available 10am – 4pm AEST weekdays***:** 1300 395 775 – nso.gov.au