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Australian Constitutional Values Survey 2025 – W2 (GU ref no: 2025/864)

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INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Who is conducting this research?

Accent Research on behalf of

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School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney

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Why is the research being conducted?

Griffith University, Bond University, La Trobe University and the University of Sydney are conducting a national online survey of adult Australian citizens and residents, regarding their views and experiences of trust in government.

This survey – the Australian Constitutional Values Survey 2025 – is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) (DP230101777). It examines what ordinary Australians understand by ideas of trust and why they have high or low trust in different public officials and government agencies.

The expected benefits of the research

The research helps identify what community actions, government efforts, and reforms may be needed to sustain or rebuild public trust in government institutions, as well as the different values of mistrust and distrust as influences on public accountability. The survey is part of a larger project into what can be done to build trust and trustworthiness in the institutions on which all citizens depend. Through this study, we aim to provide actionable insights that can inform policy and enhance democratic engagement across Australia.

What are you being asked to do?

This survey is anonymous. Potential respondents are recruited through online panels to participate in this study through Accent Research and complete a 15-minute online survey. These are actively managed research panels recruited through a variety of online channels. The survey is conducted until the target sample (4,200 respondents) is achieved. The target population are Australian citizens aged 18 and older. No particular demographics are to be targeted in addition to this, but quotas will be used for age, gender, location and education to ensure a representative sample.

You may be asked to give reasons why you trust or don't trust individual public officials or parts of government. We are not interested in specific details of problems that lead you to have low trust, just general reasons, so please do not provide any identifying information such as specific dates, places or names of other persons or organisations involved in any issues you have.

Participation is voluntary

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are under no legal or moral obligation to assist with this study. You may decline to take part in the online survey or withdraw from it at any time, without any consequences or penalty. As you proceed through the survey, if you encounter any questions that you prefer not to answer, you may choose the "don't know/prefer not say" option to skip them. You are unable to withdraw after submitting the survey, as the responses are anonymous and cannot be linked back to individuals.

Risks to you

|There are no foreseeable risks to you from participating in this research and your participation is entirely confidential and anonymous. No personal identifying information, such as your name or contact details, is linked to your survey responses or shared by Accent Research with Griffith University or any other participating universities. All data is stored securely, and all responses are compiled and analysed in aggregate form only, and results are reported as statistical summaries, not individual responses.

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|However, some survey questions may involve sensitive topics, which could cause minor discomfort or emotional reactions for some participants. While these risks are minimal, it is important to acknowledge them. To support participants, we recommend that if you experience any distress or discomfort during or after completing the survey, you contact a professional support service. Examples of such services include:

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- **Lifeline Australia:** 13 11 14 (available 24/7)
- **Beyond Blue:** 1300 22 4636 (available 24/7)

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Confidentiality

Accent Research will maintain the confidentiality of your participation in this online survey. Your contact details, if collected for communication or follow-up purposes, will be kept confidential and will not be linked to your survey responses. These details will be removed from our records following the completion of the survey process and once all data verification steps are completed, which typically takes between 1-3 months. During this period, you may contact Accent Research to request access to your own information, by emailing admin@accent-research.com, but your contact details will never be provided to anyone else. De-identified data from this research will be securely stored and may be reused in future studies by other researchers, in accordance with ethical guidelines.

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Accent Research adheres to the ethical principles and practices outlined in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. These guidelines ensure that respondents' identities are not disclosed to any clients, including Griffith University, without explicit consent and are used solely for research purposes. Accent Research is also ISO 20252 quality accredited.

|Participants may be contacted again using the same method through which they were initially reached. The purpose of this follow-up is to understand whether and how participants' opinions about trust in public officials or government actions may have changed over time.

Your contact details will remain confidential and will not be linked to your survey responses. These details will only be used for the purposes of this follow-up and will be securely deleted after the study concludes. Participation in follow-up activities will also be entirely voluntary, and you may decline without any consequences.

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Feedback to you

Results will be available via our project website, which will be online in June 2026. Please check with Griffith again if you're interested. The results will also be published in academic and professional journals, symposiums, and workshops. No analysis will be published from which any individual respondent could be identified.

Questions / further information

You are welcome to contact the researchers for additional information by emailing a.j.brown@griffith.edu.au

Ethics & Privacy Statement

Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans. This research has been approved by the Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (**GU 2025/864**). If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the research you should contact the Senior Manager, Research Ethics Integrity and Governance on (07) 3735 4375 or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au.

The conduct of this research involves the collection, access, storage and/or use of your identified personal information. The information collected is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except to meet government, legal or other regulatory authority requirements. A de-identified copy of this data may be used for other research purposes, including publishing openly (e.g. in an open access repository). However, your anonymity will at all times be safeguarded. For further information consult the University's Privacy Plan at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/plans-publications/griffith-university-privacy-plan> or telephone (07) 3735 4375.

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