



## **Assessing democratic accountability in Australia (GU ref no: 2025/612)**

### **INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Who is conducting this research?**

**Dr Osbern Huang**  
**School of Government and International Relations**  
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#### **Why is the research being conducted?**

Griffith University is conducting a national online survey of adult Australian citizens and residents, regarding their views and experiences of trust in government.

This project – named “Public Reactions to Politicians’ Undemocratic Acts” – is funded by School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University. 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 government efforts and reforms may be needed to uphold democratic accountability in Australia, as well as the different undemocratic statement for influencing public trust toward politicians. 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?**

Potential respondents are invited to participate in this study by completing a 10-minute online survey. The sample will be recruited through online panels. These are actively managed research panels recruited through a variety of online channels. The survey is conducted until the target sample (2,000 respondents) is achieved. The target population are Australian citizens or residents 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.

#### **Your response is anonymous**

All data is completely anonymous. So, all information collected about you will remain confidential, and information will be provided in a way that prevents your identification. As all responses are anonymous, it is not possible to withdraw your participation once you have completed the survey. However, you can stop anytime during the survey. 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.

#### **Risks to you**

There are no 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 PureSpectrum with Griffith University. 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.

### **Confidentiality**

Your responses will remain confidential and anonymous. The research team at Griffith University will not have access to any identifying information about participants. Research data will be retained in a restricted access electronic file by Griffith University (Griffith Research Drive) for a period of five years from the date of the final publication before being destroyed.

### **Feedback to you**

Results will be published in academic and professional journals, symposiums, and workshops. No analysis will be published from which any individual respondent could be identified. If you would like to request more information, such as the results of this research, please contact [o.huang@griffith.edu.au](mailto:o.huang@griffith.edu.au).

### **Questions / further information**

You are welcome to contact the researchers for additional information by emailing [o.huang@griffith.edu.au](mailto:o.huang@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 2025/612**). 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](mailto:research-ethics@griffith.edu.au).

Completion of this survey will be taken as your consent to participate in the research.

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