



## Kia ora!

A young person you care for is invited to take part in a survey called **whataboutme.nz**. This Information Sheet will help you discuss with them whether or not they participate. It explains why we are doing the survey, what your young person will do if they decide to take part, what being involved might mean for them, and what will happen after the survey ends.

Your community has been chosen to be part of **whataboutme.nz** – a new Youth Health and Wellbeing survey. We want to hear from 14,000 young people throughout Aotearoa about their health and wellbeing, and what is important to them. The survey will happen in 2021.

## ■ What is the survey for?

What young people say in the survey will give government, other agencies and researchers information to help them develop policies and services to:

- support healthy development as young people grow into adulthood
- keep track of government-funded policies and programmes to make sure they are working for young people
- get better outcomes for young people through helping to improve policies and services

## ■ Is it anonymous?

People at school will know if a young person has been invited to take part. They will not know what anyone says in the survey. No names will be used. Nobody, including the research team, schools, education providers, Youth-One-Stop Shops or anyone in government will know what a young person says in their answers.

## ■ Who is invited to take part?

Schools and young people in communities are randomly selected and invited to take part. We will be going to places where young people are - like schools, kura kaupapa, Youth One-Stop-Shops and alternative education places. We will ask young people to fill in the survey on a tablet. Our research team or a trained person like a youth worker will be there when young people fill in the survey.

## ■ How long will it take?

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

## ■ What are the questions about?

The survey asks young people questions about:

- **them** – like their age, ethnicity, gender and sexual identity, where they were born, and the languages they speak
- **their family, whānau and home** – where they live, who they live with and who looks after them
- **their education, work and plans for the future** – whether they go to school or not, what they think about school, whether they work in paid or unpaid jobs and what they want to do in the future
- **their community and neighbourhood** – how they feel about the community they live in, groups they belong to and volunteering
- **their relationships and friends** – including sexual relationships and contraception, and use of pornography
- **how they feel about life overall** – satisfaction with life, physical and mental health, if they feel they belong, accepted and safe
- **safety and things that might not be good in their life now or in the past** – types of risky behaviours and addictions, if they have experienced discrimination or abuse, verbal or physical violence, self-harm or had thoughts about suicide
- **where they would go if they need help.**

**At the end of the survey young people will have a chance to tell us about one thing they think would help them to have a good life now and in the future.**

A copy of the full questionnaire can be seen on our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz)

If any of the questions upset young people, they don't have to answer the questions. Young people can skip questions or stop the survey at any time.

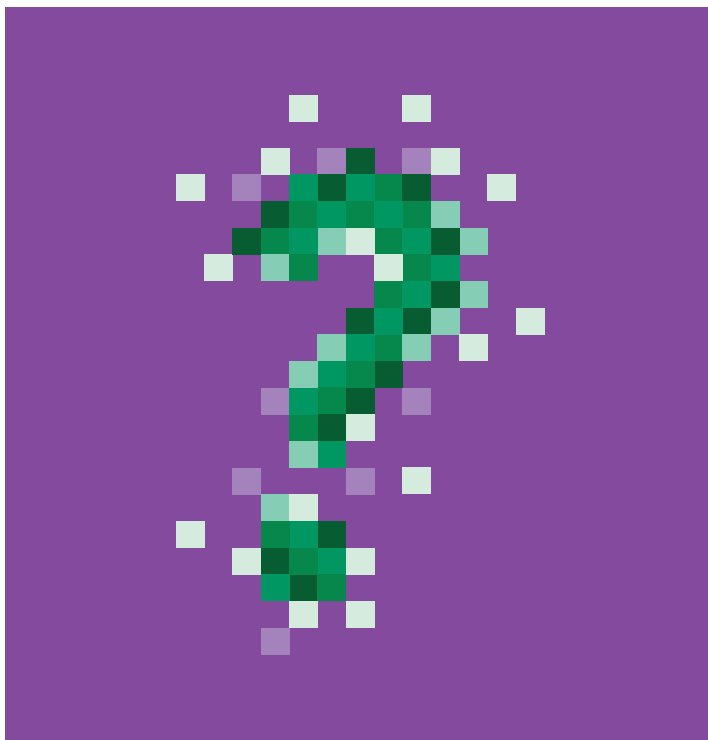
## ■ What can young people do if they want to talk with someone after the survey?

We will give all young people information about Youthline and other help in schools and communities where they can go for support. Support services will know about the survey. A copy of the list of services can be seen on our website.

## ■ Do young people have to take part?

They can choose to take part or not. Before deciding about taking part we encourage young people to talk about the survey with their family, whānau, aiga, friends, or healthcare providers. If they don't want to take part, they don't have to give a reason, and it won't affect the education or the care they receive. If they do want to take part now, but change their mind later, they can pull out of the survey at any time. Young people who choose to fill in the survey can stop at any time and skip any questions they don't want to answer.

We encourage you to discuss participation in the survey as a family, whānau or aiga. If you think your young person is not in a position to decide whether to take part in the survey please contact the school or call us on 0800 002 577. You or your young person can fill in the opt-out form on our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz). Forms will also be available at school.



## ■ What are any risks to taking part?

There are some risks that young people who take part may feel upset or worried because of questions about things that are not going well in their lives. For example, the survey includes questions about violence, bullying, discrimination and abuse they may have experienced. Young people can skip these questions, and we will ensure the young people know where they can go for support.

## ■ What will happen to survey information?

The information will be used in research and to write reports. Summary reports and tables will be available online and sent to schools and other places that help with the survey. None of the reports or tables will identify any person who has taken part in the survey. Our website [www.whataboutme.nz](http://www.whataboutme.nz) will have lots of

information about the progress of the survey and the findings. Information will be stored securely and used to compare findings with later surveys. It will be held at StatsNZ or a similar safe place and will be available to academics, government agencies and others to help them with their work with young people.

## ■ What happens if your young person decides to take part?

If a young person is asked to take part at school, the rest of the class will usually be asked to complete the survey. We will discuss everything on this information sheet with the group and answer any questions. Young people will then start the survey. On the first page of the survey they will be asked to consent to taking part. After a young person starts the survey they can still decide to skip questions or stop doing it.

You can find out more on our website [whataboutme.nz](http://whataboutme.nz) and you can call us anytime on 0800 002 577.

## ■ Who is paying for the survey?

Government through the Ministry of Social Development has commissioned us to run this survey.

## ■ Who is carrying out the work?

Our company is called Malatest International. The person in charge of the survey is Debbie McLeod. You can find out more about us on our website [www.malatest-intl.com](http://www.malatest-intl.com). You can call us on 0800 002 577.

## ■ Who do I contact for more information or if I have concerns?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact us by calling:

**Malatest International:** Stewart Graham,  
[info@whataboutme.nz](mailto:info@whataboutme.nz), 0800 002 577

**Ministry of Social Development:** Melissa Cathro, Policy Manager, Child and Youth Policy, 029 201 4290 or [melissa.cathro002@msd.govt.nz](mailto:melissa.cathro002@msd.govt.nz)

**Māori advisor:** Carel Smith [carel@arosolutions.co.nz](mailto:carel@arosolutions.co.nz) or leave a message at 0800 002 577

The study has been approved by the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (Reference 19/CEN/68). If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the study, you can call an independent health and disability advocate on **0800 555 050** or email [advocacy@advocacy.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@advocacy.org.nz). You can also call the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC) that approved this study on **0800 4 ETHICS** or email [hdecs@moh.govt.nz](mailto:hdecs@moh.govt.nz)

The Health Research Council Ethics Committee has approved the study for young people aged 12 and 13.