

Participant Information Letter

An invitation to participate in research

Title	Community Attitudes Survey about RSV and immunisations: a RISE sub study
Short Title	RISE Against RSV: Community Attitudes
Project Sponsor	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Principal Investigators	Professor Hannah Moore; Professor Chris Blyth; Dr Liz Wenden; Ms Catherine Hughes; Ms Melinda France; Ms Stacey Havenstein, Ms Zoe Clarke
Location	Community recruitment via the Kids Research Institute Australia

You are invited to take part in a research project called **RISE Against RSV: Community Attitudes**. The project aims to reduce the health and economic impact of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) on pregnant people, young children and other groups at higher risk across Australia.

You have been invited because you are:

- currently pregnant or planning to become pregnant in the near future; or
- the partner of someone who is currently pregnant or planning to become pregnant soon; or
- the parent of a child under two years of age, and

Please read this information carefully. Please ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to provide your consent through the online survey being used for this research. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- have read and understood the information provided
- agree to take part in the research project
- agree to the use of your information as described in this information sheet

What is this project about?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common cause of respiratory infections. It is a leading cause of illness in Australia and around the world and can cause severe disease in babies and young children. There are now two ways to help protect babies from RSV: 1) an immunisation for babies given soon after birth, and 2) a maternal vaccine for women who are pregnant. Both options help protect babies during their first months of life, when they are most vulnerable to severe RSV infection. In 2024, state-funded RSV immunisation programs were implemented in WA, QLD and NSW. Since 2025, maternal vaccine has been available for all pregnant people across Australia, while immunisations for babies are provided by individual States/Territories.

To make informed decisions, policymakers and community members need good evidence about what people know, think and prefer about RSV prevention programs. Through this research, the RISE team of researchers, policymakers, health professionals and community advocates want to understand what people in the community know and understand about RSV, their preferences for RSV immunisation and how best to support informed decision about protecting babies from getting seriously ill with RSV.

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This research is being led by Professor Hannah Moore and Dr Liz Wenden from The Kids Research Institute Australia. It has been funded by a National Health and Medical Research Council grant in partnership with the Western Australian Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Health Service, Office of Medical Research and Innovation, PathWest, National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance and the Immunisation Foundation of Australia.

What does my participation involve?

If you choose to take part in this research project, you will be asked to:

- read this Participant Information Letter
- complete an online consent statement
- complete an online survey, which will take about 30–40 minutes.

To thank you for your time, after completing the survey, you will be offered the chance to enter a random draw for one of ten, \$50 gift cards, to receive a summary of the study results when they are available, and, if you choose, receive by email some links to informative resources about RSV immunisation.

Can I change my mind?

Yes. Taking part in this research project is completely voluntary. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. The survey is anonymous. Any personal information you provide (such as for the gift card draw or for future research) will be stored separately from your survey answers. Up until the online survey is fully completed, you can stop taking part at any time before submitting the survey by closing your web browser. However, once you have completed and submitted the survey, we will not be able to remove your anonymous responses because they won't be linked back to you. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information Letter to keep. Your decision about whether or not to participate, or to withdraw before completing the survey, will not affect your relationship with the research team or any of the research partners.

Your privacy

By completing the consent statement in the online survey, you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. Any information obtained from this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. Your survey responses will be anonymous. Any information that could identify you will be removed from the research data and kept separate from your survey responses. All information collected for this project will be stored securely in line with The Kids Research Institute Australia's Data Management Policy. Only the research team will have access to project data. The data collected will be used only for this project and will not be used in any extended or future research.

Electronic data will be stored on a secure Microsoft SharePoint site provided by The Kids Research Institute Australia. Any paper records will be stored as required in The Kids Research Institute Australia's Records Management Policy. The data will be kept for a minimum of seven years. Data will be de-identified, meaning information that could identify you will be removed when stored. At the end of the retention period, the data will be destroyed under the State Records Act and the WA University Sector Disposal Authority for disposing of research records and information.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Western Australian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the study team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this letter if you would like to access your information.

Possible Benefits

You may not receive any direct benefit from taking part in this study. However, your participation will help researchers better understand the experiences and views about RSV of Australian parents, families

and community members. This information can help improve RSV immunisation programs and ensure they meet the needs of the people they are designed to support.

Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan

There are no foreseeable risks from taking part in this study. However, some people may feel uncomfortable when answering questions about respiratory infections in young children, especially if they have had personal experience with these illnesses. Some questions may also cause worry or anxiety for people who are concerned about childhood infections or immunisations.

If you feel that any of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting, you may stop the survey immediately by closing the browser page. If you become upset or worried as a result of your participation, please seek the advice of your GP or relevant health professional. You may also wish to contact:

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| • Health Direct: | 1800 022 222 | 24hrs/7days a week | https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/ |
| • LifeLine: | 131 114 | 24hrs/7day a week | https://lifelinewa.org.au/ |
| • Beyond Blue | 1300 244 636 | 24/hrs/7days a week | https://www.beyondblue.org.au/ |

What happens when this research study stops?

You can request a summary of the study results from the research team contact listed below after the project is completed (expected in December 2031). We also intend to publish our results in research journals and present them at research conferences locally, nationally and internationally. No identifying information about you be included in any of the publications or presentations.

Has this research been approved?

This research project has received the approval of the Child & Adolescent Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2025). The approval number is RGS0000008718 This research has also been reviewed by The Kids research Institute Australia.

Contacts

If you have any concerns or complaints about the research project and wish to talk to an independent person, you may contact the Reviewing HREC approving this research:

Reviewing HREC name	Child & Adolescent Health Service (CAHS)
Position	HREC Chair
Telephone	(08) 6456 8639
Email	CAHS.Ethics@health.wa.gov.au

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this project, please contact the following person:

Name	Dr Liz Wenden
Position	Senior Research Officer, The Kids Research Institute Australia
Telephone	(08) 6319 1000
Email	RSVResearch@thekids.org.au

What do I do now?

If you are interested in participating, please scan the QR code or click on the link (below) and follow the prompts:



OR https://redcap.link/RISE_community