

Relationships Australia joins international research about the long-term impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on families and relationships.

Today Relationships Australia is joining the international research study [Families Un-locked: Relationships Emerging from COVID-19 into the 'New Normal'](#) led by the [University of Worcester UK](#) in collaboration with School of Human Services and Social Work, [Griffith University](#) and [Relate UK](#).

“This exciting collaboration is an independent long-term study about how individuals and families are coping and adapting to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Relationships Australia is proud to contribute to this important international exploration of relationships at such a crucial time in our shared history”, said Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer of Relationships Australia.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of many across the globe this year, with periods of lockdown at home, separation from family and friends and, for some, loneliness, unemployment, anxiety and bereavement. While some people have managed the challenges well, others have struggled. A survey by [Relationships Australia in May 2020](#) found that over 55% of people had been challenged by their living arrangements during the pandemic, and many had spent more time and effort maintaining their relationships. However, while some relationships had grown stronger, others had deteriorated. Loneliness was a significant issue for some 45% of people in the survey and this was often linked to relationship breakdown.

As the pandemic continues to bring various restrictions on how we lead our lives, in conjunction with positive news of treatments and vaccines beginning to be available, the *Families Un-locked* research study aims to understand how people are navigating these uncertain times and are adjusting to the 'new normal'.

We are encouraging everyone in Australia who is 18 and over to take part in the study.

The Australian on-line survey launched today, 23 November 2020 takes about 20 minutes to complete on-line. Find out more about the study and how you can [take part here](#).

Relationships Australia has a long history of responding to societal change and this research will be vital for informing our services in these exceptional times.

Relationships Australia continues to provide [ongoing support across Australia](#).

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