

The **NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS)** is a state-wide (15- 20 years) longitudinal study focused on the development of children who were assessed using the Australian Early Development Index in 2009. The study is led by a team of researchers at the University of NSW and will provide information about how early experiences influence later adolescent and adult health, education, social, and life outcomes.

What is the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS)?

The MCS will be rolled out in Term 3, 2015 to all year 6 students in NSW.

The MCS is one component of the NSW-CDS and aims to obtain a snapshot of the mental health and wellbeing of NSW children at a critical stage of development.

The major value of the MCS will be in the interpretation of children's responses in the context of other information obtained from different organisations (e.g health records, school data) that can be linked anonymously using multi-agency record linkage.

Findings will be used to develop new policies and programs that support and improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Australian children.



What is the Middle Childhood Survey Feasibility Study (MCS-FS)?

In 2014, 11 schools participated in a feasibility study. This feasibility study tested the procedures for the MCS to ensure that the information collected, and the way it will be collected will work effectively and have minimal impact on participating schools, teachers and children in the state-wide roll out in 2015.

Where can I find more?

Visit our website: <http://nsw-cds.com.au>
 Call us on: 1800 901 922
 Email us at: info@nsw-cds.com.au

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MCS-FS Feedback

- 11 Schools participated in the MCS-FS; 6 Government, 2 Catholic and 3 Independent. These schools ranged by area (Metropolitan and Rural) and socio-economic status or SES (higher SES and low-middle SES).
- From a total 701 eligible participants, 645 Year 6 students (310 boys, 335 girls) participated in the MCS-FS. A 92% response rate was achieved.
- 635 completed 101 survey questions (responded to all 101 items). A total of 10 students did not finish the survey (0.015%).
- Opt outs: There was a total of 56 opt outs (7.9%), including 42 from parent/caregivers and 14 from students who decided not to participate.

Reasons for opting out of the MCS-FS:		
	Parents	Students
Didn't provide a reason	27	5
I'm worried about privacy	11	4
I don't have enough information	4	3
My parent/caregiver said I shouldn't		2

School/ Teacher Feedback on the MCS-FS

Feedback from Schools/Teachers on the MCS-FS enabled the research team to address any technical and procedural issues for implementing the MCS 2015. Feedback indicated:

- Teachers appreciated having their own MCS School Portal allowing them to monitor and update student details electronically.
- The provided MCS Administration Materials were informative and it was easy to follow the steps in administering the MCS.
- All parents/caregivers were provided with an Information Leaflet. Schools received no queries or complaints about the MCS.
- Students took 15-30 minutes to complete the MCS and required very little assistance.
- Students found it a fun task and showed no distress whilst completing the survey.