

COTA NSW Loneliness Survey: Participant Statement Information

By completing this survey, you have given consent for the COTA NSW team to use and analyse the data as we aim to understand how loneliness impacts older Australians:

1. What is the survey about?

COTA NSW is conducting a state-wide survey to analyse the impact of loneliness on NSW residents over the age of 50. The aim is to analyse the types of demographics affected by loneliness, and how this impact translates across day-to-day life for NSW residents. Our goal is that this data can be used to understand what can be done to combat loneliness, support policymaking and improve the current circumstances for older Australians.

2. Who is carrying out the survey?

This survey is conducted by COTA NSW. In doing so, we aim to capture the perspective of as many older NSW residents as possible for a relevant sample size.

3. What does this survey involve?

This survey involves the completion of all required questions. Any of the users who complete the survey will not have their personal data sold.

4. How much time will the survey take?

It is estimated that a respondent will take approximately 10 – 15 minutes for the full completion of the survey.

5. Can I withdraw from the survey?

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and under no circumstances are you obligated to complete the survey. During the survey, you may stop at any time. However, once completion, the data will be anonymised and cannot be withdrawn.

6. How will this data be used?

Survey data will understand the wider impacts of loneliness amongst older Australians. This may involve the cross-tabulation of data across various demographic, age groups or other discerning characteristics to generate insights about the loneliness epidemic. Anonymised data may be shared with other organisations such as universities for the purpose of research.

COTA NSW will be using this data to inform a report on loneliness in NSW. The report will be publicly available. Data may be used in-conjunction with statistical analysis to complete academic or policy-making reports by other research organisations.

7. Can I tell other people about the survey?

Yes, you may tell other people about the survey.

8. Will the study benefit you?

COTA NSW cannot guarantee that the study will have an immediate or direct impact on you.

9. What if I have a complaint, issue or comment?

If there are any immediate issues about the survey, feel free to contact info@cotansw.com.au.

10. What are the risks of completing this survey?

There is a chance that the completion of this survey may introduce feelings of loneliness, distress or sadness.

If you find that this survey raises any feelings of distress or sadness, please remember that help and support are available. Reach out to the following resources:

- Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14 (24/7 support for crisis and emotional distress).
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 (Support for mental health and wellbeing).
- Elder Abuse Helpline: 1800 353 374 (Support for older Australians experiencing abuse or neglect).
- 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732 (Support for anyone affected by sexual assault, domestic or family violence).

Your wellbeing is important, and there are people ready to listen and help.
