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*Exploring the Perspectives of Australian Children Aged Between 8 and 14 to Safety, Security and Personal Wellbeing*  
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This presentation discusses the findings of an ongoing study conducted since 1997 exploring the perspectives of Australian children aged between 8 and 14. Using a questionnaire format children were asked to nominate answers to a range of open-ended questions. This presentation will provide the perspectives of children on the issues they have nominated.

In their responses the children identify specific conditions for happiness; safety, security, and personal wellbeing. Notably, very few responses referred to the material world. A key finding is the predominance of an altruistic orientation in their responses and the specific nomination of interpersonal relationships as being critical to their sense of wellbeing. By allowing the children to nominate their own hopes, fears and expectations, programs for children will better reflect the intrinsic priorities of this group.