

Developing a Child and Youth Engagement Framework for the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse

Participant Information Sheet- child/young person

Introduction

My name is **Lynne McPherson** from Southern Cross University, NSW. Our research team includes Janise Mitchell, Lauren Thomas, Fiona Cornforth and myself. We are working together on a research project called: Developing a Child and Youth Engagement Framework for the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse. The Centre aims to improve the help given to people who have experienced child sexual abuse – and prevent it from happening in the first place. This research will help to guide the way that the Centre learns from children and young people.

What is this research about?

The research will examine your views about how you may wish to participate, in what ways you want to be consulted and offered opportunities to be involved in the work of the National Centre. We will explore how adults can effectively create conditions, enable having a voice, and provide an audience for children and young people to enable their participation in the development of the National Centre.

The findings will be used to help develop a framework for the participation of children and young people in the development of the National Centre for Action against Child Sexual Abuse.

What does this research involve?

You are invited to participate initially in two focus group sessions, which will be held online. After that you can opt in or out for the final two phases. This is a four-phased research project and you can choose not to participate if you don't want to, with no negative consequences.

Phase One. Focus Group– Participation and Your Rights, Exploring the Need, Identifying the Challenges, Developing Solutions (2 hours)

In this first session you will learn about your rights to participate and have a chance to express your views. Focus Groups will cater for two age groups: 12-15 years and 16-25 years. A range of creative art and fun activities will be used to hear from you about what you think. The focus group session will involve researchers checking in with children and young people about the views and ideas that they were expressing. A support person may be with you in the group.

www.scu.edu.au

Phase Two. Focus Group– Time to Design, selecting solutions- (2 hours).

In this session you will have an opportunity to review the ideas from the morning and to begin to choose the approaches and solutions that you prefer. This will include developing preferences for the platforms, environments and ways of being engaged to support participation. With your permission, the focus groups will be audio-recorded but you can ask for the recording to be paused at any time if you wish to say something “off the record”.

In phase three, an online feedback session will take place (1 hour). This meeting would present the initial findings of the focus groups to the Advisory Group of adult experts in the field. A small group of young participants, who volunteer from focus groups will help to present back what happened in the groups.

In phase four, all children and young people who have been involved will be invited to attend a final, online feedback session (1 hour). The purpose of the final session would be for the adult Advisory Group to present back to the children and young person participants, showing that they had heard and understood their views and that the views were being taken into account and had been acted upon.

You will not be paid to be in the study; however, we will offer you a gift voucher to thank you for your time.

What are the risks associated with this research?

You will not be asked to talk about personal information. You will be providing advice about helpful and useful ways in which you would like to be consulted about a range of topics. There is, however, the potential for embarrassment or distress if confidential information is revealed to other focus group participants, or if you find that you are uncomfortable in the group, for any reason. If you feel distress, we will respond straight away. Someone will be immediately available to talk to. We can also arrange for a counsellor to be available for you to talk to.

My responsibilities to you.

Your privacy and confidentiality will be protected, except as required by law and all data will be de-identified at the time of analysis and only group data will be reported.

The likelihood and form of dissemination of the research results, including publication.

We intend for this research to be published as a report to the National Centre for Action against Child Sexual Abuse. We will also publish our findings in journals and may share

information via podcasts and webinars. No child or young person will be identifiable in any information published.

Data Storage. All data collected in this project will be stored safely and securely at Southern Cross University for a minimum of 5 years after publication.

Informed Consent

Please read this information sheet carefully and discuss with your parent or guardian the potential benefits and possible risks of your involvement in the focus groups. **If you consent to taking part in the research please read, complete and sign the attached Consent Forms (one for you and one for your parent or guardian) and either upload these via the Engage project website at www.ncacsa.org.au/engage or return them to:**

Ms Lauren Thomas, The Australian Childhood Foundation, P.O BOX 3335. Richmond VIC 3121.

We will check in with you a couple of times to make sure that you are still happy to be involved and that you are still consenting. If you change your mind about being involved that will be OK and no one will be angry with you.

Inquiries You can contact me at lynne.mcpherson@scu.edu.au if you have any questions about this research.

Feedback to Participants Findings will be made available in a report and a summary to all participants. We will send you these by email if you choose to include your email address at the bottom of the consent form.

Ethics Approval

This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Southern Cross University. **The approval number is 2022/091**

Complaints

If you have concerns about the **ethical conduct** of this research or the researchers, write to the following:

*The Ethics Complaints Officer
Southern Cross University
PO Box 157
Lismore NSW 2480
Email: ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au*

All information is confidential and will be handled as soon as possible.

CONSENT FORM- Young Person

Title of research project **Developing a Child and Youth
Engagement Framework for the National Centre for Action on
Child Sexual Abuse**

Name of researcher: A/ Professor Lynne McPherson

At the end of each statement, tick the box that applies, sign and date the form and return it to the researcher at the address provided.

	YES	NO
I agree to take part in the Southern Cross University research project specified above.		
I understand the information about my participation in the research project, which has been provided to me by the researchers.		
I agree to participate in focus groups offered by the researcher		
I agree to allow the focus groups to be audio-recorded		
I understand that I can ask for the recording to be paused if I wish to say something 'off the record'.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and I understand that I can cease my participation at any time.		
I understand that my participation in this research will be treated with confidentiality and that any information that may identify me will be de-identified at the time of analysis of any data.		
I understand that no identifying information will be disclosed or published.		
I understand that all information gathered in this research will be kept safely and securely at Southern Cross University for a minimum of 5 years after publication.		
I am aware that I can contact the researchers at any time with any queries. Their contact details have been provided to me.		
I understand that this research project has been approved by the SCU Human Research Ethics Committee		

Participant's name: _____

Participant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please tick this box and provide your email or mail address below if you wish to receive a summary of the research when it is finished.

Email: lthomas@childhood.org.au