

Information Statement (Adolescent Survey)



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**Participant Information Statement for the Research Project:
Social capital and adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing**
Document Version [5.1]; dated [08/09/2020]

Dear Student,

You are invited to take part in the research project named above. This project is part of Mr Tim Byatt's studies at the University of Newcastle. The project is supervised by Dr Jill Duncan and Dr Kerry Dally from the School of Education.

Why is the research being done?

This research will explore the social capital of teenagers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Social capital refers to your friendships, communities, and opportunities that may come from these communities. Knowing how much social capital teenagers have will help us understand what is working well for you and how you can be better supported.

Who can participate in the research?

You are invited to take part in this research if you are now in Years 7-12 in an Australian high school and are deaf or hard of hearing. Participants are being recruited through organisations that deliver services to adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

What would you be asked to do?

You and one of your parents or carers will be asked to complete an online consent form.

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete an online survey regarding your experiences as a teenager who is deaf or hard of hearing. All questions are multiple choice and describe your experience – there are no wrong answers.

Your contact details will not be recorded by the research team unless you approve it. Some of these experiences relate to your language skills and wellbeing. The survey should be completed in one sitting.

What choice do you have?

Involvement in this research is your choice. There is no problem if you do not wish to do the survey. You can stop the survey at any time before you submit, and your answers will not be saved. A parent or carer will also need to provide their online consent for you to participate in the research.

How much time will it take?

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

There is very little risk in taking the online survey. If any of the questions make you feel sad or worried, you can speak to your parent or carer, school counsellor, contact the researchers, or contact Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or go to <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>.

By taking part in this survey, you will have the chance to give your views on living as a teenager who is deaf or hard of hearing, such as your friendships, identity, and the social support you have from your family, school, and other people. We also ask questions about your wellbeing and happiness. This

research will add to the knowledge available about social capital and may help the way services are provided to teenagers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

All teenage participants who complete the survey are able to enter a draw to win one of two iPad minis. This draw is offered in appreciation of the time taken to complete the survey.

How will your privacy be protected?

Information will be kept securely for at least five years from the end of the research and stored according to the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guidelines.

The survey is hosted on REDCap. REDCap is a secure web application. REDCap protects the privacy of its users through security encryption.

Individual participants will not be identifiable in any reports arising from the project and their responses will be anonymous. All data collected in the online survey will be treated privately:

- The online survey will not identify you unless you provide your family contact details for an interview;
- Your contact details for the iPad mini draw will be collected on a different page to your survey and will not be linked to your survey answers.

How will the information collected be used?

The collected information will provide research towards Tim Byatt's PhD thesis. Information that has had identifying material removed may be presented in academic publications, journals, or conferences.

Interview participants will be offered a summary of the results and findings at the end of the research. If you would like a copy of the results summary, please email the Chief Investigator jill.duncan@newcastle.edu.au after June 2021.

What do you need to do to take part?

Please read this Information Statement and discuss it with your parents. Please be sure you understand its contents before you agree to take part. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, please contact the researcher (contact details below).

If you would like to participate, please click on the following link [insert survey link] and complete the online consent with your parent or carer.

Further information

If you would like further information, please contact Jill Duncan on 02 4921 6282.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

[Signature]

Dr Jill Duncan

Dr Kerry Dally

Mr Tim Byatt

[Chief Investigator]

[Co-Supervisor]

[Student Researcher]

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2020-0139.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the Chief Investigator 02 4921 6282 or jill.duncan.newcastle.edu.au, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Ethics Officer, Research and Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333 or email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au.