

Information Statement (Survey – Parent/Carer)

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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 Parent/Carer,

Your adolescent child who is deaf or hard of hearing is invited to participate in the research project identified above which is part of Mr Tim Byatt's studies at the University of Newcastle, supervised by Dr Jill Duncan and Dr Kerry Dally from the School of Education.

Why is the research being done?

The purpose of the research is to explore the social capital of teenagers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Social capital refers to friendships, access to 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 your teenager who is deaf or hard of hearing and how they can be better supported during their teenage years.

Who can participate in the research?

Your child who is deaf or hard of hearing is invited to participate if they are in Years 7-12 in an Australian high school. Participants are being recruited through organisations that deliver services to adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

Due to the young age of the participants, we also ask that you provide your consent before your child participates in this research.

What will your child be asked to do?

If you and your child give your consent, we will ask your child to complete a multiple-choice survey where they can indicate their experiences relating to social capital, language, and wellbeing.

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

What choice do you have?

Participation in this research is entirely your and your child's choice. Only those people who give their informed consent will be included in the project. Whether or not you decide to allow them to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you or your child. If you do agree for them to participate, you or they may decide to withdraw from the project at any time prior to submitting the survey responses.

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. We encourage any adolescent participant who is concerned about any questions to speak to you, another 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, adolescents will have the opportunity to give their views on living as a teenager who is deaf or hard of hearing on friendships, identity, and the social support they receive from

your family, school, and other networks. We will also ask questions about their 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?

Data will be retained securely for a minimum of five years from completion of the research and stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (see <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy provisions (as amended from time to time).

Individual participants will not be identifiable in any reports arising from the project and responses will be anonymous. Individual anonymous responses may be quoted.

- All data collected in the interview will be treated confidentially.

How will the information collected be used?

The collected deidentified data will contribute towards Tim Byatt's PhD thesis and may be presented in academic publications, journals, or conferences.

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

What do you need to do to participate?

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to your child participating. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, please contact the researcher.

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.