

Information Statement (Interview)

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**Participant Information Statement for the Research Project:
Social capital and adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing**
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Dear Student,

You recently completed an online survey as part of 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. At the end of the survey you indicated an interest in participating in an interview. The purpose of this letter is to provide further information for you and your parents about the project and to ask if you are still willing to be interviewed and to see if one of your parents would also like to participate in a separate interview.

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. If you are the parent or carer of such a student, then you are also being invited to participate.

What would you be asked to do?

You are invited to take part in an interview about your life experiences. If you agree to an interview, one of your parents will need to be at home at the time we interview you. The interviews will be conducted by Tim Byatt over Zoom at a time that works for you. We will provide you with an Auslan interpreter if you request one. The Auslan interpreter will log in to the meeting separately and will not need to be in your house. We would also like to interview one of your parents or carers. If your parent or carer agree to an interview, we will organise a separate time with them. You may participate in the interview even if your parent does not agree to an interview, as long as your parent gives their consent for you to take part in the interview. Your parent may also take part in a separate interview even if you do not agree to take part in an interview.

What choice do you have?

If you agree to an interview you can choose to end the interview at any time without giving a reason. You will be sent a copy of your interview transcript to make sure you are happy with it. You can change it or leave out parts you do not want included. If you decide you do not want us to use any of your interview, your interview file will be deleted.

If you agree to do an interview, we would also like to interview your parents. Up to 12 students and up to 12 parents or carers will be interviewed. You are still able to participate in an interview even if your parents do not wish to participate. However, your parents will still need to give permission for you to participate by signing the consent form attached to this letter.

How much time will it take?

The teenager interview will take about 25 minutes to complete.

The parent or carer interview will take about 25 minutes to complete.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

Some of the questions deal with potentially upsetting issues such as those relating to friendships, identity, and social support. If any of the questions make you feel sad or worried, we ask that you speak to a parent or carer, school counsellor, contact the researchers, or contact Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>.

By taking part in this interview, you will have the chance to talk about 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. Your parents will be asked similar questions about their views on these same issues.

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 interview transcripts will be hosted on ownCloud. ownCloud is a secure cloud-based data storage service provided by the University of Newcastle.

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

- All data collected in interviews will be treated privately and will be anonymous;
- Once the interviews have taken place and participants have had an opportunity to review the transcript, all identifying details will be removed from the interview transcripts;
- Zoom does not require participants to share private details such as email addresses, so you will not need to share any private contact information;
- Interviews will be transcribed by Tim Byatt.

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 you would like to participate and your parents agree to your participation please sign the Consent Form attached to this letter and ensure that both you and your parent sign the form indicating they give permission for you to be interviewed. Your parents are free to choose whether or not they want to be interviewed. Their decision will not affect your involvement. Please email the signed Consent Form to timothy.byatt@uon.edu.au and Tim will contact you to organise a suitable time for your interview. Tim will contact your parents separately if they indicate on the Consent Form that they would like to be interviewed.

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.