

## Caregiver Participant Information Sheet

**Research Title:** Professional and caregiver experiences of emotional behavioural difficulties in children with permanent hearing loss.

### Researcher(s):

#### Professor Nerina Scarinci

Principal Investigator and Principal PhD Advisor  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
The University of Queensland

#### Dr Monique Waite

Investigator and PhD Advisor  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
The University of Queensland

#### Honorary Professor Teresa Ching

Investigator and PhD Advisor  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
The University of Queensland

#### Emily Fagan

Investigator and PhD Candidate  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
The University of Queensland

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information about the project so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about our involvement in the project.

If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and change your mind later, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to explain your decision to stop participating. If you choose to stop participating, your data will not be used in the research.

You will be given the Participant Information and Consent Form to sign, and you will be given a copy to keep. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with The University of Queensland.

### What is this research about?

This study aims to investigate the nature of emotional and behavioural difficulties in children with permanent hearing loss and to gain a further understanding of the resources required to help caregivers and healthcare professionals in managing these behaviours. While we know that emotional and behavioural problems are more common in children with hearing loss, we do not clearly understand how these children express their emotions or the best way to support parents in managing any potential behavioural difficulties.

### What will I need to do?

As a parent or caregiver, if you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a demographic questionnaire relating to you and your child and given the option to either participate in a 1:1

The University of Queensland Brisbane QLD 4072 Australia V2.0 12/02/24	T +61 7 3365 3333 F +61 7 3365 4754	E e.fagan@uq.edu.au W uq.edu.au	ABN: 63 942 912 684 CRICOS Provider 00025B
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interview with a researcher or a focus group. It is estimated that the interviews and focus groups will take up to 1 hour to complete, and you will be given the choice of how you would like to participate: either face-to-face or via a web-based platform (e.g., Zoom or Microsoft teams). Focus groups will be organised and conducted via early intervention services. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your child's behaviour, how you manage it, and any supports you use to help manage your child's behaviour.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

While there will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this research, information gathered from these studies will help to develop a greater understanding of the emotional and behavioural difficulties of children with hearing loss and how we can best support parents and professionals. Upon completion of the interview or focus group, you will be given a \$50 gift voucher as a thank you for your participation and to compensate you for your time.

**What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

The main risk associated with participation in this study is that you will be asked to reflect on your child's emotional and behavioural difficulties. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can stop at any time and/or choose not to answer any questions. Should you require further support following the completion of this study, you will be given a list of available counselling services.

**What will happen to the information about me?**

All information collected about you will remain confidential. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed with any personal information about you, your child, and your healthcare removed from the transcript. Data will be stored on the UQ Research Data Management (UQRDM), a password-protected, secure network managed by The University of Queensland. Only members of the research team will be able to access information on the UQRDM. It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in various forms. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided so that you cannot be identified except with your expressed permission.

**What will happen if I decide to withdraw?** Your participation in this research is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the research at any time without needing to provide any explanation. You would not receive any penalty or bias because of your withdrawal. Should you decide to withdraw, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research.

**Can I hear about the results of this research?**

It is also our intention to publish the findings of this study in a peer-reviewed journal. As the research project progresses, a lay summary of results will also be published via the study's webpage used for recruitment. Findings will also be included as part of a series of studies contributing to the final thesis of the doctoral researcher.

**Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher Emily Fagan, contactable at [e.fagan@uq.edu.au](mailto:e.fagan@uq.edu.au) if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator at +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)

This research Ethics ID number: 2022/HE002462

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