

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

What is the Project About?

- We know getting support from family, friends and the community is hard for young who are leaving out of home care.
- Right now we do not know enough about where and when you people need help.
- In this project we want to understand the experiences of young people as they to begin adulthood, and find out what helps a successful transition from care.
- We hope the information from the study will improve the lives for young people as they begin their adult lives.

Who is doing the Research?



The project is being done by researchers from Curtin University, Monash University, The University of Western Australia, and Wanslea Family Services.

This research is led by Associate Professor Reinie Cordier (reinie.cordier@curtin.edu.au)



This research project is funded by the Australian Research Council, the Department of Communities, and Wanslea Family Services.

Why am I being asked to take part?

You have been asked because you are living in care or have recently left care.

What how long will it take?

Each appointment will last about 90 minutes. You will fill out some surveys on paper or an iPad and an interview with the researcher.



There will be no costs to you. You will be offered a gift voucher at each appointment for your time in this project.

The first voucher will be for \$20. The vouchers will go up by \$10 each time for the next four appointments.

What will I have to do?



- You will be asked to come to 5 appointments with the researchers. The first one will happen when you join the study. The rest will happen every 6 months for the next two years.
- The appointments can happen where you live, or somewhere in the community where you feel safe. You will be asked to bring someone with you to support you.
- We will ask you questions about how prepared you feel/felt for leaving care, your plans around housing, education and work, and your connections with family, carers and friends.
- If any of the questions upset you, you do not need to answer them. If you get very upset, your support person can help you and we let you know other places where you can get more help if you need.
- We will make a digital audio recording of your answers so we can concentrate on what you are saying. After the interview we will make a written copy of the recording.
- We will also give you some question forms to fill out on paper or an iPad. The forms will ask about your strengths and difficulties, your social connections, significant events in your life, your resilience and your self-determination.
- If you are in care right now, we would also like to give your carer some question forms to fill out about their relationship with you.
- We don't expect that there to be risks for you to answer the questions, but if you did get upset then we can find someone that you can talk to about why you were upset.

We would like your OK to get some information from your records at Department of Communities. Information we would collect is:



- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Indigenous status
- Cultural and Linguistically Diverse status
- Living arrangements
- Details about placements (e.g., dates)
- Viewpoint responses
- Needs Assessment Tool responses
- Care Plan (if you have one)



This research will also be linking information from Government records (such as Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Transport) about all young people in WA aged 15-21 years. We would like to ask if it is OK to do this for your records.

Other research projects

We are also conducting other research studies in this area and would like to ask if it is OK to contact you about being in that research too.

Do I have to be in the research project?



You can choose if you want to be in the project or not. If you don't want to be in the project you don't have to – it won't have an impact on your relationship with the Department of Communities, Wanslea or any other community organisation.

If you change your mind and want to stop, that is OK. Just let the researchers know at any time.

If you chose to stop, we would like your OK to still use the information you have given us to that point.

Who will see my information?

In most cases, only the researchers will know your answers. We will remove your name from your information. All of your information will be treated as confidential and used only in this project. The only time when researchers can't keep your information confidential is if you tell us about any abuse or illegal activity that hasn't already been reported. The researchers may present the project at conferences or write a report, but you will not be named.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions or would like more information, you can contact Kevin Anderson or Lauren Parsons:

Phone: (08) 9266 7429

(08) 9266 3829

Email: kevin.anderson@curtin.edu.au OR lauren.parsons@curtin.edu.au

This information sheet is for you to keep.

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number HRE2018-0170). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.