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## **Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study**

### **A study of children and young people who experience out-of-home care in NSW**

### **Wave 6 Interview Information and Consent Form**

#### **About the study**

The study is being conducted, and funded, by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) with advice from a consortium of Australian and international academic researchers.<sup>1</sup>

This study aims to understand the life-course developmental trajectories of children and young people who experience out-of-home care to improve socio-emotional, cognitive, physical, mental health and other life-course outcomes through evidence informed responses to need.

The study collects and analyses information about the experiences, development and well-being of children and young people; the experiences and characteristics of their caregivers, and support needs. Please see the back page for research participant's inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Knowledge gained from this study is used to provide better services and support to children, young people and their caregivers; and to train practitioners.

For more information about what participation in an interview involves please watch the short study videos [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/videos](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/videos)

For more information about the study please visit the study webpage [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care/)

#### **New caregivers and parents to the study**

The child/young person in your care is part of the *Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study* following children and young people who were/are in OOHC in NSW. Another caregiver may have participated in a previous interview. The interviews are conducted every 18-24 months and as you are the child/young person's current caregiver, or parent (if restored), you are being invited to take part in the sixth round of interviews.

You have been contacted by DCJ via a letter to inform you about the study and by phone to seek your permission to transfer your contact details to Ipsos/ I-view, an independent data collection agency. Following that initial contact, Ipsos/I-view phoned you to invite you to participate in an interview.

#### **Caregivers and parents who have participated in previous interviews**

The child/young person in your care is part of the *Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study*. You participated in an interview previously and we are now inviting you to take part in the sixth round of interviews.

You have been contacted via letter by Ipsos/I-view on behalf of DCJ to inform you about the sixth interview. Following that initial contact, Ipsos/I-view phoned you to invite you to participate in an interview. The questions are similar to the previous interviews so we can see how the child/young person in your care is developing.

#### **Young people over 18 years old**

The *Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study* from Wave 6 will track the older cohorts beyond 18 years for the first time, thus adding critical information about the longer-term post-care outcomes. You and/or your caregiver participated in an interview in previous waves and we are now inviting just you to take part in the sixth round of interviews.

<sup>1</sup> University of NSW, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong, University of South Australia, Kurongkurl Katitjin Edith Cowan University, Sax Institute, University of Canterbury New Zealand, and Chapin Hall Centre for Children University of Chicago

## What participation involves

As you agreed to participate, Ipsos/I-view has arranged an interview at a time and place that is convenient for you. The caregiver interview is expected to take about 2 hours and will focus on the child/ young person's health, behaviour, development, well-being and experiences. You will also be asked about the services and support your family receives and your family's situation.

Children aged 7-17 years will be asked to complete a 5-10 minute language and reasoning activity; and also participate in a 30 minute interview about school, friends, health, well-being, their placement and caseworker.

Young people aged 18 years and over will participate in an interview expected to take about 45 minutes that focuses on the wellbeing and experiences of care leavers, the supports they access and the supports that they need.

The questions in this study have been used in similar studies on child wellbeing. However, some of the more sensitive questions on family time, relationships, behaviours and your circumstances may make participants feel upset. The *Study Brochure and Useful Contacts & Information for Caregivers* provide a list of services you can get support from, alternatively you can contact the researchers and they will provide you with appropriate assistance.

## Participation in this study is voluntary

Participation in this study is voluntary and you and the child/young person do not have to answer all the questions. Your decision about whether or not to participate will not affect your future relations with DCJ for you or the child/ young person. If you change your mind, you can withdraw your consent and discontinue your participation in the study at any time without prejudice. To do so, complete the Revocation of Consent form below.

## Ethics approvals

- University of NSW Human Research Ethics Committee (HC210985)
- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) of NSW Ethics Committee (2016/22)
- State Education Research Application Process (SERAP) NSW Department of Education (2012250)
- NSW Population and Health Services Research Ethics Committee HREC/14/CIPHS/74) Cancer Institute NSW (2014/12/570)
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Ethics Committee (Ref: EO2019-1-406).

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the Study you may contact:

<b>Position</b>	<b>UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Address</b>	University of NSW, Sydney, NSW 20152
<b>Email</b>	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	(HC210985)

<b>Position</b>	<b>AH&amp;MRC Ethics Committee Coordinator</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9212 4777
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 1565   Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
<b>Email</b>	ethics@ahmrc.org.au
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	(2016/22)

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

## Confidentiality of information

All the information gathered during the study that identifies you, or the child/young person in your care, will remain confidential except as required by law (for example, if the child's safety, welfare or wellbeing is of concern, or the police are investigating a potential crime). Only de-identified data will be released to approved researchers for analysis and any information published from the study will not identify you or your family, or the child/young person in your care.

The data will be held electronically and retained for at least seven years after the completion of the study, currently planned to be in December 2027. After that all hard copies of questionnaires and electronic files will be archived as per NSW government protocols.

## The next steps

After the sixth round of interviews, we may invite you to participate in another interview in two years from now, if the child/young person remains in your care. We will also ask the child/young person in your care to continue to participate in the study in the same manner. Researchers will contact you for the consent of yourself and the child/young person in your care to participate before each interview.

Throughout the study publications will be uploaded to the study webpage [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care). Results will be disseminated via dashboards, publications and conferences/seminars. All participants will be sent a summary of results after each round of data collection. Please note, this may be a while after you are interviewed as the interview period is 12 months and the data needs to be processed before analysis can be undertaken.

## Contact details of the researchers

If you have any questions about the research study, please contact:

<b>Organisation</b>	DCJ researchers who are managing the Study
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 997 960
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care">www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/pathways-of-care</a>

<b>Organisation</b>	Ipsos/I-view who are conducting the interviews
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 105 088
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.ipsos.com/en-au">https://www.ipsos.com/en-au</a>

## Contact details of organisations supporting this study

If you would like to talk to support agencies about the interview or any issues raised for you, please contact:

<b>Organisation</b>	Carer Support Line - MyForeverFamily
<b>Telephone</b>	1300 782 975
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.myforeverfamily.org.au">https://www.myforeverfamily.org.au</a>

<b>Organisation</b>	Aboriginal Carer Support Service - AbSec
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 888 698
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://absec.org.au">https://absec.org.au</a>

<b>Organisation</b>	Support for Young People -CREATE Foundation
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 655 105
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://create.org.au">https://create.org.au</a>

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

## Research Participants Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

### **UNSW HREC Instructions: The inclusion and exclusion criteria should be copied from Section 6 Research Participants and pasted into the Participant Information Statement & Consent Form.**

The study population is a census cohort of all children aged 0–17 years who entered OOHC for the first time under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 across NSW within an 18-month period between May 2010 and October 2011 (n=4,126) and includes three subset cohorts:

- No final care and protection orders cohort (n=1,298) is a subset of children who did not receive final care and protection orders by 30 April 2013. This subset of the study population cohort is not eligible for an interview in the POCLS. Record linkage to administrative data is the only data source.
- Final care and protection orders cohort (n=2,828) is a subset of children who went on to receive final care and protection orders from the Children's Court by 30 April 2013, allocating to the Minister full aspects of parental responsibility (PR), shared aspects of PR, or no aspects of PR. Children in this subset of the study population cohort are eligible to participate in an interview for the POCLS regardless of their pathways in OOHC. They are also included in record linkage.
- Final orders interview cohort is a subset of children (n=1,789) in the final care and protection orders cohort whose caregiver agreed to have their contact details passed on to the data collection agency. These children and caregivers are invited to participate in interviews before each wave of data collection.

#### Cohort 1: Children and young people aged up to 17 years old inclusion criteria are:

- First time entries to OOHC between May 2010 and October 2011 and received final Children's Court orders by 30 April 2013; and remained on the order for at least 6 months
- Caregiver at Wave 1 agreed to join in the POCLS and for DCJ to pass their contact details to Ipsos/I-view, the data collection agency (n=1,789)
- Child/young person has lived with their current carer for at least one month before the interview
- A child can participate if their caregiver does not participate, if their caregiver supports this decision

#### Cohort 2 & 3: Caregivers (same as previous wave; new at Wave 6 or 7) inclusion criteria are:

- Must be the child/young person's current caregiver (carer, guardian, adoptive parent, birth parent or residential care worker) and we ask that the caregiver who knows the child best participate in the interview
- For new caregivers, the child may have participated in any or all of the previous POCLS interviews however the caregiver is new to the study at this wave
- The child criteria also apply.

#### Cohort 4: For young people aged 18 years and older at Wave 6 or 7 inclusion criteria are:

- First time entries to OOHC between May 2010 and October 2011 and received final Children's Court orders by 30 April 2013; and remained on the order for at least 6 months
- Caregiver at Wave 1 agreed to join in the POCLS and for DCJ to pass their contact details to Ipsos/I-view, the data collection agency (n=1,789)
- Child/young person or caregiver has completed at least one interview for this study
- Note, a top-up sample may be necessary if the sample recruitment is low. The inclusion criteria will be submitted as a modification.

#### Cohort 5: Teachers inclusion criteria are:

- To be included caregivers (excluding birth parents and adoptive parents) must provide consent at the time of the interview for I-view to administer an on-line survey to the child's current childcare worker/school teacher. At Wave 6 the majority of children will be transitioning to high school or already in high school.
- The Principal is asked to select the teacher who knows the child best to complete the survey.

#### Cohort 6: Caseworkers the inclusion criteria are:

- To be included caseworkers must be responsible for the case management of the child or young person in the final care and protection orders cohort (n=2,828). Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study A study of children and young people who experience out-of-home care in NSW

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

## Wave 6 Interview Information and Consent Form

### CONSENT BY YOUNG PERSON OVER 18 YEARS OLD, CAREGIVER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- I have read and understood the above information about the *Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study* and have been given information brochures about the study.
- I agree to take part in an interview.
- I understand that by participating in this study I will not receive any immediate or extra services or support.
- DCJ researchers may have access to information about caregiver’s and children’s participation for the sole purpose of facilitating contact for further rounds of the study, without access to individual responses to the survey.
- I have received a \$50.00 voucher as an acknowledgement of the time I have given to the study.

#### INTERVIEWER DELETE AS APPROPRIATE:

- I agree to the child/young person in my care **aged 12-17 years** being invited to complete in a short language and reasoning activity; and to participate in an interview.
- As this is a longitudinal study, I understand that while the selected child/young person is in my care under 18 years old, the researchers will contact me in two years, if the study continues, to invite me to participate in further interview about the child/ young person’s progress, and if agreeable gain my consent to do so.

Signature of Caregiver:..... Signature of Witness: .....

Please PRINT name: ..... Please PRINT name: .....

Date:..... Nature of Witness: .....

### REVOCATION OF CONSENT BY YOUNG PERSON OVER 18 YEARS OLD, CAREGIVER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I hereby wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in the *Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study* on children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** jeopardise my or the selected child/ young person’s relationship with DCJ.

Signature of Caregiver:..... Signature of Young Person:.....

Please PRINT name: ..... Please PRINT name: .....

Date:..... Date: .....

**The section for Revocation of consent by the caregiver should be forwarded to I-view, Level 2/51 Berry Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060.**

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.