

Pathways of Care
Longitudinal Study of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care in NSW

**THIRD INTERVIEW INFORMATION STATEMENT
AND CONSENT FORM**

About the study

The study is being conducted by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services with assistance from a consortium of Australian researchers through the Australian Institute of Family Studies (including the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW, the University of Sydney and University of Adelaide) and Chapin Hall Centre for Children at the University of Chicago.

The study collects and analyses information about the experiences, development and well-being of children and young people in OOHC on final Children's Court orders. Knowledge gained from this study will be used to provide better services to carers, children and young people; and to train OOHC staff.

New carers and parents to the study

The child/young person in your care is part of the *Pathways of Care* study following children and young people who were/are in out-of-home care (OOHC) in NSW. A previous carer may have participated in either the first or second interview conducted every 18 months. As you are the child/young person's current carer, or parent (if restored), you have been invited to take part in the third round of interviews.

You have been contacted by the Department of Family and Community Services by letter to inform you about the study and by phone to seek your permission to transfer your contact details to I-view, an independent data collection agency. Following that initial contact, I-view phoned you to invite you to participate in an interview.

Carers and parents who completed the second interview

The child/young person in your care is part of the *Pathways of Care* study. You participated in the second round of interviews approximately 18 months ago. We are now inviting you to take part in the third round of interviews.

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

What participation involves

As you agreed to participate, I-view have arranged an interview at a time and place that is convenient for you. The carer interview is expected to take about one and a half 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 three years and over will be asked to complete a five to ten minute language or reasoning activity; and those aged seven years and over can also participate in a thirty minute interview about school, friends, health, well-being, their placement and caseworker.

After the third round of interviews, we may invite you to participate in another interview in 18 months 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.

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



Participation in this study is voluntary

Participation in this study is voluntary and you and the child/young person in your care do not have to answer all the questions. Your decision about whether or not to participate will not affect your future relations with the Department of Family and Community Services for you or this 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.

Ethics approval

This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of NSW and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) of NSW Ethics Committee. Complaints may be directed to the Ethics Secretariat, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY 2052 AUSTRALIA (phone 9385 4234, fax 9385 6648, email ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au) and the Chairperson, AH&MRC Ethics Committee, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, PO Box 1565, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012.

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.

Contact details of the researchers

If you have any questions about the research study, please contact the Department of Family and Community Services who are managing the study on 1800 997 960 (freecall); or I-view who are conducting the interviews on 1800 105 088 (freecall).

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CONSENT BY CARER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- I have read and understood the above information about the *Pathways of Care* study and in the carer information brochure supplied.
- I agree to take part in an interview.
- INTERVIEWER DELETE AS APPROPRIATE:
 - I agree to the child in my care **aged three to six years** completing a short language activity. Six year olds will also complete a short reasoning activity.
 - OR
 - I agree to the child/young person in my care **aged seven years and older** 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, the researchers will contact me in 18 months, 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.
- I understand that by participating in this study I will not receive any immediate or extra services or support.
- The NSW Department of Family and Community Services researchers may have access to information about carer'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.

Signature of Carer:

Signature of Witness:

Please PRINT name:

Please PRINT name:

Date:

Nature of Witness:

REVOCATION OF CONSENT BY CARER, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I hereby wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in the ***Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study of 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 The Department of Family and Community Services.

Signature of Carer:

Signature of Young Person:.....

Please PRINT name:

Please PRINT name:

Date:

Date:

The section for Revocation of consent by the carer should be forwarded to I-view, Level 14, 168 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW, 2060.