

Participant Information Statement

Project Title:	Evaluation of Belongside Families programs	
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Thank you for your interest in participating in this project.

Here is information about the project to help you decide if you want to participate. It tells you what's involved and what we are asking you to do. You can ask questions about anything you don't understand and want to know more about.

What is this project about?

The aim is to learn about the experiences of parents and carers participating in Belongside Families programs, including how satisfied they are.

The Parenting Research Centre is conducting this project on behalf of Belongside Families and it has been approved by the Parenting Research Centre Ethics Committee.

Who is funding the project?

Belongside Families.

What will you be asked to do?

Take part in a telephone interview with an opportunity to give in depth answers to our questions.

For example, what helped you get involved in the program, what you gained from it, what could have gone better and whether anything improved for you as a result.

A researcher from the Parenting Research Centre will conduct the interviews.

If you are interested and give us your contact details, the Parenting Research Centre may contact you to give you more information. Depending on how many are interested in being interviewed we may not be able to contact all parents who give their contact details.

If you decide to go ahead with an interview the researcher will schedule a convenient time to do this. The interview will take about 30 minutes. If you agree, the researcher will audio record the interview. If you don't want it recorded, we will take notes instead so we don't miss any of the important information you share with us. You can choose to use a made-up name during the interview. Afterwards, the audio recording will be transcribed and then deleted so no-one else will be able to hear it.

You can take a break or stop the interview at any time. You can choose not to answer specific questions if you don't want to.

We will provide you with a \$50 voucher as acknowledgment of your time and contribution to the evaluation.

What are the possible benefits?

Findings from this project may help Belongsides improve programs for other families and their children.

While the information you provide will be of great benefit to Belongsides for learning more about their programs, it is unlikely there will be a personal benefit for you from participating.

What are the possible risks?

For some people, talking about their experiences may make them upset or uncomfortable. If this happens to you, you may like to contact Lifeline at www.lifeline.org.au and on 13 11 14.

Confidentiality

We will take out all names and other identifying details from everything you tell us in interviews before we analyse the information. When the research team studies the information, they will not be able to work out who it was collected from.

We will summarise the interview information and report it only for groups of families to protect your identity. The researchers will do their best to ensure Belongsides staff can't identify you when they read the report. There is always a small chance that someone who reads your words may recognise you, but it is very small and we will reduce it by saying the same things you say but in different words in our report.

What will happen to my interview information?

Combined with information from other parents/carers there will be a report to Belongsides Families.

We may also report findings in academic articles, at conferences or in books. However, we will not write or publish any information that identifies you, your child/ren or anyone else you mention. This includes geographical location and names of services you have used. We will not report any names or personal information.

Your information is stored securely in electronic files. Only members of the research team have access to this. All data will be stored securely for 7 years after which it will be destroyed.

Do I have to take part in this project?

If you don't want to take part in this project, you don't have to. You can stop the interview at any time. You can also refuse to answer specific questions if you don't want to answer them. You don't need to give a reason for stopping the interview or pulling out of the research project after you have agreed to participate.

Belongsides staff will not know whether you participate or not. Your decision to participate, or not, will not affect the services and supports you are receiving or your relationship with Belongsides staff.

If you decide to stop being involved in the project after the interview has finished you can ask for your interview information to be removed. However, after 48 hours we will begin to delete all identifying information from the transcripts. That means we won't be able to identify who said what and cannot remove your information then.

So, if you no longer wanted us to use your interview in the project, please let us know within 48 hours of your interview.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

If you would like a brief summary of findings, please contact Dr Gina Sartore at the Parenting Research Centre at gsartore@parentingrc.org.au

Who can I contact?

Feel free to ask questions at any time by contacting Dr Gina Sartore at the Parenting Research Centre at gsartore@parentingrc.org.au

For complaints about the project

Please contact the Parenting Research Centre Ethics Committee Chair on (03) 8660 350 .