

Evaluation of the implementation, impacts and outcomes of the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health

Information sheet for Practitioners and Professionals

Lead researcher:

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Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project

The following pages provide information about the project to help you decide if you would like to take part in this research. Please read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can stop at any time.

What is this research about?

This research is being conducted by the Parenting Research Centre (PRC) and the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) on behalf of Emerging Minds. The project is funded by the Australian Government to support and address child mental health. The aim of this evaluation is to learn more about the National Workforce Centre (the Centre) and how it might be helping practitioners and professionals address mental health difficulties in children (or not). Findings from the research will be used to guide and improve activities of the Centre.

The research has been approved by the Parenting Research Centre Human Research Ethics Committee (Melbourne).

What will I be asked to do?

Involvement in the project will require participation in a face-to-face focus group that will take one to two hours. You may also be asked at a later stage in the project to contribute to another focus group to track the impact of any on-going activities you engage with.

In the focus groups, you will be asked about your experience with the Centre and its activities. You may also be asked about how (or if) involvement with the Centre has changed your views and practice with regards to supporting children with mental health difficulties and their families.

With your consent, the focus groups will be audiotaped to help record information you give to assist with future analysis. You may choose to select a pseudonym (false name) if you wish for the purpose of the focus group. Consent indicates that information you've provided may be used to write reports regarding the Centre's progress and impact. Your information will remain anonymous with findings reported only in de-identified form.

What are the possible benefits?

Findings from this evaluation may:

- inform and guide activities of the Centre
- determine how well the support functions of the Centre are working and what changes may be needed
- determine what factors influence the implementation process of these new practice approaches
- assist in the development of improved services and strategies that best support children and their families.

What are the possible risks?

If talking with the Centre makes you feel upset, or you have any other concerns about participating, you are welcome to call the research director, Dr Melinda Goodyear, on (03) 8660 3500. Additionally, all of our research team are experienced interviewers who can help you find a support such as a GP or a mental health worker. Alternatively, you may wish to call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Confidentiality

All data relating to you will be de-identified prior to being used for any analyses. This means that the research team will not be able to determine who the data was collected from when running their analyses. Findings from focus groups will be summarised and reported at a group level to further protect your identity.

No other organisations will have access to files where we store the information we collect from you. Your involvement in this evaluation will not affect your employment or involvement with the Centre and related initiatives in any way.

Limits to Confidentiality

All data collected for this study will be confidential, however there are some important exceptions to confidentiality. Small group sizes can increase the likelihood that interviewees become identifiable. To account for this, interviewees will be consulted to review and correct any interpretations made about overall findings from focus groups and information will only be reported on a group level. This means that no individuals or organisations will be named in reports or publications.

What will we do with the information you give us?

We will store the information you give us on a secure location on a server to which only members of the research team have access. Information collected through focus groups will be used as the basis for a report that is provided to the Department of Health to better understand how the Centre is helping practitioners. We might also report findings from this research in academic articles, at conferences or in books. No research findings are reported in a way that allows any members of the study to be identified, including agency names and geographic locations.

Only staff involved in this research will have access to this information. All data will be stored at the Parenting Research Centre for a minimum of five years before it will be destroyed. Focus group documentation and audio tapes will be stored in a locked filing cabinet.

Do I have to take part?

If you don't want to take part in the study you don't have to. However we may also contact you again to seek your interest in participating in other evaluation activities.

You may also withdraw from the study at any stage and this will not affect your involvement with the Centre or related initiatives in any way.

Declining to participate means that you do not wish to be involved in the focus group. Withdrawing means that no future information provided by you via questionnaires or focus groups can be used. Information provided by you during your involvement in the study prior to withdrawal however will not be able to be removed because it will be stored as de-identifiable.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

If you would like to know the results of the project, you can contact the evaluation team via ph: (03) 8660 3500 or email mgoodyear@parentingrc.org.au and we will send you a summary.

Contact us

You should feel free to ask questions at any time. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Dr Melinda Goodyear at the Parenting Research Centre on (03) 8660 3500 or email mgoodyear@parentingrc.org.au

For complaints about the research project

If you have a complaint or concern about the conduct of this research project, please contact the Parenting Research Centre Ethics Committee Chair on (03) 8660 3500.



Delivery partners:



Australian National University



RACGP
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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