

Department of Social Work
School of Health Sciences
University of Melbourne
Parkville, Victoria 3010

Child, Youth and Family Research Cluster
Promoting Safety and Well-Being for Children, Young People and Families



Research Project *Young and 'care-full'*: The support needs of young kinship carers and children

Progress report October 2017

Interviews

Thirty-five interviews of young kinship carers have been completed (plus 2 more completed but subsequently deemed out of scope).

Seven interviews have been conducted with young people in or ex kinship care with a young carer. We would prefer to have a total of 10 young people interviews for a better representation of this perspective.

Dr Margaret Kertesz, Research Fellow, and I have commenced coding of transcripts for analysis.

Census data

Detailed customised tables derived from census data have been received from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and are being analysed.

Publicity

Article in the University of Melbourne's online magazine Pursuit, November:

<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/hidden-burden-as-young-carers-pick-up-the-pieces>

ABC Radio National Interview with Patricia Karvelas including a young carer and myself November:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drawingroom/australia's-hidden-carers-keeping-kids-out-of-foster-care/8054494>

Presentation to the *Grandparent, Relative & Kinship Carer Alliance (GRaKCA)* Sydney, February 2017.

ABC TV 730 Report interview with Josie Taylor with a young carer, young adult & myself, May:

http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/news/730/video/201705/730s_Kinship4_1205_512k.mp4

Online presence

Three public faces have been established:

1. Research project webpage
<http://healthsciences.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/social-work-research/partnership-for-innovation-in-out-of-home-care/young-kinship>
2. Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/YoungKinshipCarers/>
3. Facebook Discussion Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngkinshipcarers/>
The Discussion Group is a very new venture. It has a high degree of security; membership and posts are only visible to approved members.

Survey

Despite multiple avenues of publicity, there have been few survey responses, and the survey is now closed. In hindsight it appears that this may have been an inappropriate research method to reach such a hidden population.

Pilot support service

This component of the research project has proved challenging. The initiative has failed to progress with two large child welfare organisation who expressed interest in sponsoring the pilot service. A further Expression of Interest has been received and will be considered in November. The service proposal includes a consulting role for myself across the pilot period, potentially enabling the establishment work to continue into 2018.

Conference presentations

1. Presentation about the planned pilot support service in May 2017 at the national Child Aware conference in Brisbane.
2. Presentation of the research project in September 2017 at the National Foster Care and Kinship Care conference in Melbourne.
3. Presentation to the Australian Social Policy Conference in September 2017 under the *Theme: Poverty, welfare and social inequality* entitled: *Welfare and poverty: the lot of the child in statutory kinship care?*
4. Forthcoming presentation to the International Foster Care Organisation conference in November 2017 in Malta entitled: *From institutions to family care: the rise of kinship care in Australia.*

Meredith Kiraly, PhD
Research Fellow
October 2017