



Research Project: Young and ‘care-full’: The support needs of young kinship carers and young people in their care

Information about interviews for young people with experience of kinship care with a young carer

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Hi, I’m Meredith Kiraly, and I’m a researcher at the University of Melbourne. I work with Professor Cathy Humphreys.

What is the research about?

We want to know what it is like for children and young people like you with experience of being cared for by a young family member (age 30 or under) such as an older sister or brother, aunt or uncle, etc. The information we collect will be provided to policymakers and services to help develop support programs for young kinship families. You can read more about this project at <http://young.kinship.carers.research.project>

Maybe you used to live with a young relative, or maybe you do now - either way, we would like to talk to you. However, unfortunately we do not have consent to speak to young people who are on statutory orders. To participate, your order needs to have expired or you need to be in an informal care arrangement.

What will it be like?

I would either meet with you somewhere you are comfortable to talk, or telephone at a time to suit. The interview would take up to an hour. After the interview I would give you a gift voucher for \$50 to say thankyou.

I would like to make a recording of the interview to remember what you said. When it is typed up, I would change anything that could identify you - like your name, where you live, etc. So your contribution would become anonymous. I would destroy the recording after it is typed up. The written record would be kept locked away for five years and then destroyed.

It would all be private and confidential, unless you told me that another child was in danger. If that happened, I might need to talk with you about how to take up your concerns, and I might need to talk to a support service to work out how to ensure that the child could be safe.

Participation is voluntary

You can choose whether to take part or not. It will not make any difference to how you are treated. You can change your mind at any stage. You could always withdraw your contribution, providing it hadn't already been processed and made anonymous. If you agree, I will ask you to sign a form to say so.

What if I find the interview upsetting?

I think this is unlikely. But if you did feel distressed, you could stop the interview. I could arrange for a counsellor who is separate from your family or any service you might be in contact with, at no cost to you, if you wanted that. You could always ring me later on 0400 913659 to talk about anything related to the research.

What will you do with the information you collect?

I will take all the ideas from the interviews and pull them together so as to understand more about young kinship care families. I will write a report that will go on a website where you can read it, and maybe a journal article, and talk to people who run support programs about the information. I would still keep your personal information private.

Who makes sure your research is done properly?

We have permission to do research from the University of Melbourne Ethics Committee. If you weren't happy with the way we did the research, I would encourage you to tell me and we would try to work it out so you felt comfortable about participating. You could also phone the University of Melbourne Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics, 8344 2073. You would need to tell them you participated in Project HREC number 1341257.1.

What do I do to be in it?

You can contact me directly on 0400 913659 or mkiraly@unimelb.edu.au Or you can give your phone number and email address to the person who gave you this information sheet, and they will pass your message on. I will contact you as soon as possible.

What if I have questions about this project?

Phone me on 0400 913659. Leave your phone number if necessary, and I will ring you back.

Thank you for considering this. I hope to be able to speak to you.

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