

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**Project: Adaptive Behaviour, School Readiness and Emotional and Behavioural Well-being in children aged 2-7 years**

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the email addresses listed above.

**What does the research involve?**
Part A

The current research aims to explore the relationship between adaptive behaviour, school readiness and emotional and behavioural well-being. Currently, measures of adaptive behaviour are required in order to inform diagnoses and treatment planning. In addition, these measures are fundamental in accessing funding via education departments or the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This research aims to provide the community with a theoretically sound measurement of developmentally appropriate behaviour and evaluate the relationship of these behaviours with school readiness and emotional and behavioural well-being.

In addition, school readiness and social-emotional learning is imperative for this age group to thrive and succeed through their school years. By evaluating the association between (1) adaptive behaviour and school readiness and (2) adaptive behaviour and emotional and behavioural well-being, this research will aim to gather important data pertaining to possible early intervention. This research also aims to evaluate the relationship between socio-economic status (SES), ethnicity and school readiness.

You are invited to participate in research that involves two parts (Part A and Part B); however, you can choose to complete only Part A of the research. If you are a parent and wish to participate in both Part A and Part B you will be required to express your interest at the end of Part A.

Part A

Part A of the research involves a questionnaire that asks a number of questions regarding the observed behaviour of either your child or a child you know between the ages of 2-7 years old. If you are a parent, you will be asked for demographic information of both yourself and your child and questions relating to SES and your ethnicity. If you are a teacher, you will only need to provide the age of the child. If you are a teacher, you will be asked basic demographic information; however you will not be required to provide any identifiable information about yourself or the child. The questionnaire may take approximately 30 minutes – 2 hours depending on the individual. The questionnaire will be delivered in an online format and may be completed at any time that is suitable for the participant.

You will be able to elect to receive a short summary of the results and/or to go into the draw to win a prepaid gift card valued at \$150 for your participation.

If you are a parent and you wish to continue with the research you will be asked to express your interest at the end of the questionnaire.

## Part B – For Parent participants only

If you elect to continue with Part B of the research, you will be sent a link to the email address provided in Part A. This link will take you to an additional questionnaire called the Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System – Third Edition (ABAS-3). This questionnaire aims to assess adaptive behaviour in children and the data will be utilised to make comparisons between these results and the results obtained in Part A. You will be asked to provide your email address at the end of this questionnaire if you wish to enter into the secondary prize draw.

### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

This statement provides you with information about what participation in this project involves. You are given the opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered. If you agree to participate, please do the following:

- Check the box to consent to participate in the research which will be provided at the end of this explanatory statement before you will have access to the questionnaire
- Complete the survey questionnaire
- Elect whether you would like to go in the prize draw and/or receive a short summary of the results
- Elect whether you would like to continue with Part B of the research (if you are a parent)

You may decide to stop being a part of the research study at any time without explanation. You have the right to ask that any data you have supplied to that point be removed. You have the right to not answer or respond to any question we ask you. You have the right to have your questions about the procedures answered. If you have any questions as a result of reading this explanatory statement, feel free to contact the researchers for more information.

### **Possible Risks to participants**

The risks involved in this research are minimal. It is anticipated that participants are unlikely to experience even discomfort. However, if you have been adversely affected, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

It is recommended that participants be mindful of ergonomics whilst completing the questionnaires. Please review the following link for Worksafe recommendations: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/officewise-guide-health-and-safety-office-handbook>

### **Benefit to participants**

Participants will be provided with the opportunity to go into a prize draw to win a prepaid gift card valued at \$150 for your participation, which will be drawn following the completion of the data collection.

Participants wishing to participate in Part B of the research will go into a prize draw to win a prepaid gift card valued at \$200 for your participation.

### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality of the data collected is paramount. You will remain anonymous and all personal information will be deidentified in the reporting of the results. However, your information will include identifiable information for both yourself and the child. The identifiable information will be collected at the beginning of each of the questionnaires. Furthermore, if you wish to enter into the prize draw and/or continue to Part B of the research, your email will be collected. If you wish to receive a short summary of the research and the results of the prize draw, you will be emailed individually and not identified to other participants.

#### **Third Party**

The questionnaires will be completed through Qualtrics, which is a Monash University recommended survey platform. Those individuals that elect to participate in Part B of the research and to complete an adaptive behaviour measure, will complete the questionnaire through a Pearson Clinical platform, which is a secure administration platform for many psychological instruments.

### **Storage of data**

Data collected will be stored in accordance with Monash University Regulations, for a minimum of 5 years. All data will be kept on a password protected University computer and it will only be accessed by the researchers. At the end of this period data will be destroyed through the deletion of electronic data files.

### **Use of data for other purposes**

If the opportunity for further projects arises, only aggregate de-identified data will be used for such projects and only where ethics approval has been granted.

### **Results**

The results will be published in a form of a PhD thesis in order to meet the course requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy at Monash University. The results will also be published in a form of a 4<sup>th</sup> Year thesis in order to meet the course requirements for the Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology at Monash University. You will not receive individual results or reports of the completed questionnaire(s); however, you can elect to receive a summary of the aggregate data from the research at the completion of the questionnaire.

### **Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Chancellery Building E,  
24 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052      Email: [muhrec@monash.edu](mailto:muhrec@monash.edu)      Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you,

Dr Shane Costello – Main Supervisor

Ms Jessica Price – PhD candidate

Mr Matthew Oswald, Ms Caitlin Hooper and Ms Tasma Dunn – Graduate Diploma of Professional Psychology Students