

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET: COMMUNITY MEMBER PARTICIPANTS

Co-Designing a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the ACT

WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?

This project is supporting the co-design of a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the ACT. It is an initiative arising from the *Our Booris Our Way* review. This review recommended the establishment of a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT. The Commissioner would be responsible for providing monitoring, advice and advocacy regarding government and non-government services affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families. The ACT Government has committed to working with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community towards the establishment of this role, including consideration of its functions and powers, governance, location and selection process.

The project is being facilitated by the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, UTS, in partnership with the ACT Government Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Directorate and the *Our Booris Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee*. We have prepared a discussion paper about the proposed role and this project, available online at <https://jumbunna.institute/2021/11/02/have-your-say/>.

The project is not focused on personal experiences of these systems and will not ask about your individual experiences or those of your family. Rather, it is focused on what you think a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children should be focused on, how they should be selected, and how they might go about their work.

FUNDING

This project is funded by the ACT Government. The ACT Government will receive a report from the researchers once the research is completed that will be used to inform the co-design of the Commissioner's role.

WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?

You have been invited to participate as a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT. The *Our Booris Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee* is particularly interested in providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to participate in this project.

IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?

If you decide to participate, you will have an opportunity to shape the Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children for the ACT. You will be invited to participate in a discussion along with other community members to provide your views regarding the function and powers, governance, location and selection process for the Commissioner role.

There will be multiple sessions inviting community participation during the co-design process.

Participation will involve attending one or more co-design sessions. Co-design sessions will be online via Zoom. These sessions will take around 2-3 hours of your time. If appropriate, there may be an in-person community session arranged.

We won't be recording any of our discussions but will take some notes about what is discussed. These notes will not record your name.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?

Yes, there are some risks/inconveniences. Whilst we will be talking about the preferred characteristics of the Commissioner role, it is appreciated that this may raise issues or negative feelings for community members who have negative experiences of services, particularly child protection and youth justice systems. If this occurs, you may stop participating at any time altogether or to take a break. We can also provide you with details of support services, including Beyond Blue (contactable on 1300 224 636) or the Kids Helpline (for younger participants).

We also want you to know that if you disclose to us possible illegal activity that points to a risk of harm to a child/young person we may have mandatory obligations to report this information. If you begin to disclose this type of information during the forum, we will remind you of our reporting obligations.

DO I HAVE TO SAY YES?

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part.

We note that if the session proceeds face-to-face you will be asked to sign a consent form prior to participating. If the session proceeds online, we will be seeking your verbal consent to participate during the session.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?

If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the University of Technology Sydney. It will also have no impact on your relationship with the ACT Government or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations in the ACT.

If you wish to withdraw from the forum while it is taking place, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason by leaving the session. You are also welcome to stay in the session but not contribute to the conversation.

During the forum we are not identifying who makes what contribution to the discussion. For this reason, after the forum it will not be possible for us to remove from our notes or from the report we will give to the ACT Government things you have said that we have recorded. We may be able to do this, however, if you discuss this with us during the forum.

CONFIDENTIALITY

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using the information you share with us for the research project. All this information will be treated confidentially, and we will not collect any identifying information from you.

The information you share with us will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

As noted above, the results of this research project will be presented in a report to the ACT Government, who may then share the report internally and externally. In any publication, you will not be able to be identified, but the report may include anonymous quotes from the session which may be identifiable to others who attended the session. We will be reminding all those attending the session as we begin our discussion to keep confidential any information shared by other participants during this session.

WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research that you think I or my supervisor can help you with, please feel free to contact us on 02 9514 9655 or via email – Paul.Gray@uts.edu.au.

You can also contact the *Our Booris, Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee* secretariat through OBOWsecretariat@act.gov.au.

If you feel distressed during or after our conversation, please contact Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636. Younger participants may contact the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

NOTE:

This study has been approved in line with the University of Technology Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee [UTS HREC] guidelines. If you have any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the conduct of this research, please contact the Ethics Secretariat on ph.: +61 2 9514 2478 or email: Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au and quote the UTS HREC reference number ETH21-6411. Any matter raised will be treated confidentially, investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.

CONSENT FORM**Co-Designing a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the ACT**

I _____ agree to participate in the research project 'Co-Designing a Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the ACT being conducted by UTS Jumbunna (Ph: 02 9514 9655). I understand that funding for this research has been provided by the ACT Government and that it is being undertaken in partnership with the *Our Booris Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee*.

I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research as described in the Participant Information Sheet.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time without affecting my relationship with the researchers or the University of Technology Sydney.

I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

I agree that the research data gathered from this project may be published in a form that:

Does not identify me in any way

I am aware that I can contact Paul Gray at the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research if I have any concerns about the research.

Name and Signature [participant]

___/___/___
Date

Name and Signature [researcher or delegate]

___/___/___
Date

Name and Signature [witness*]

___/___/___
Date

*** Witness to the consent process**

If the participant, or if their legally acceptable representative, is not able to read this document, this form must be witnessed by an independent person over the age of 18. In the event that an interpreter is used, the interpreter may not act as a witness to the consent process. By signing the consent form, the witness attests that the information in the consent form and any other written information was accurately explained to, and apparently understood by, the participant (or representative) and that informed consent was freely given by the participant (or representative).