WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

Participant Information Sheet
ADULT INTERVIEWS

Project Title:

Digital Storybook for Out-Of-Home-Care

Project Summary:

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Dr Milissa Deitz, Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Communication Arts. The core aims of this project are to begin the preliminary design for an interactive digital storybook to support families involved in out-of-home care (OOHC), also known as foster care, and produce sample digital pages of the storybook. Conceived for use by foster parents and children, the storybook will provide a creative and interactive digital space for children to, literally, 'tell their family story' and create a record of the different people that have shaped their lives. In so doing, the storybook will help support foster children develop positive identities.

How is the study being paid for?

Western Sydney University is providing seed funding through a Researcher Infrastructure Funding (RIF) grant.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to be involved in a face-to-face interview at an agreed upon location, during which time you will be asked you questions about your thoughts on 'Life Story' and the proposed Digital Storybook. Following this, you may also be contacted via email for confirmation of details.

How much of my time will I need to give?

The interview will take approximately half an hour, with the potential follow-up emails totalling another half an hour.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

You will be a part of a research project that will help to create a Digital Storybook for Out-Of-Home-Care. It is envisaged that the storybook will help support foster children develop positive identities, nurture a sense of belonging, and develop an inclusive language for the complex and extended family (birth and foster) networks and communities to which they belong.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

It is not expected that the study will provide any discomfort to you, but you will be given the opportunity to opt out if at any stage it causes distress. To minimise the risk of stress, you will be given access to questions and issues for discussion in advance of the interview.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. Your name may be used I the publication and/or presentation, unless you would prefer otherwise and in this case, all identifying features would be withheld.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period of time. It may be used for journal articles and conference presentations or for a review of the OOHC Digital Storybook's success in the future. The researchers want to keep the data for five years for possible re-use. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving reason.

If you do choose to withdraw, any information that you have supplied will be deleted from the researcher's archives.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study. They can contact the chief investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

What if I require further information?

Please contact Dr Milissa Deitz in the first instance via email m.deitz@westernsydney.edu.au should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H*[enter approval number once the project has been approved]*.

What will happen with my information if I agree to it being used in projects other than this one?

Thank you for considering being a participant in a University research project. The researchers are asking that you agree to supply your information (data) for use in this project and to also agree to allow the data to potentially be used in future research projects.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

You have been asked to agree to extended consent.

When you agree to extended consent it means that you agree that your data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project
- in the same general area of this research.

The researchers will allow this data to be used by the research team (Dr Milissa Deitz, Dr Rachel Morley, Dr Katie Sutherland). It may be used for journal articles and conference presentations or for a review of the OOHC Digital Storybook's success in the future.

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at the University in its data repository and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use will not have information in it that makes you identifiable. The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

The researchers want to keep the data for five years for possible re-use. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018