

Participant Information Statement – SURVEY ONLY

Adult Experts (>24 years)

Research study: C3 Study - Co-research Core Competencies & Reporting Checklist

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1. What is this study about?

There is growing interest in and support for more active adolescent involvement in health and wellbeing research. This has resulted in a proliferation of literature around models of adolescent involvement. However, missing from this body of knowledge is clear information on fundamental skills, capabilities and resources needed by adult researchers to support genuine and meaningful adolescent leadership in health research. There is also significant inconsistency in reporting around co-research and co-design making it difficult to assess how comprehensive engagement is, what impact it has and to make comparisons across efforts.

The C3 Study aims to address this gap by conducting a mixed- methods study to understand what adolescents (14-24 years) and adults (>24 years) with experience in co-research / co-design:

- believe are critical competencies for successful partnerships
- view as essential items for comprehensive reporting.

Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that is unclear or for which you require additional information.

2. Who is running this study?

This project is being carried out by the following researchers with experience in co-research and/or co-design with adolescents:

- Dr. Jaameeta Kurji (The Kids Research Institute, Australia)
- Ms. Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis (Consumer investigator)
- Dr. Stephanie Partridge (University of Sydney)
- Associate Professor Zohra Lassi (University of Adelaide)
- Ms. Allyson Todd (University of Sydney)
- Ms. Rebecca Raeside (University of Sydney)
- Ms Zahra Ali Padhani (University of Adelaide)

- Ms. Patience Castleton ((University of Adelaide)
- Ms. Sabrina Uihmann (The Kids Research Institute Australia)
- Ms. Nayonika Bhattacharya (youth steering committee member)
- Mr. Kushagra Rathore (youth steering committee member)
- Ms. Amelia Ascitto (youth steering committee member)
- Mr. Kay Connor (youth steering committee member)

This study is funded by an NHMRC Investigator Grant (Prof Peter Azzopardi), a Horizon Fellowship (CI Partridge) and an NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellowship (CI Lassi).

3. Who can take part in the study?

We are seeking to hear from researchers (>24 years) who have prior experience in engaging in co-research or co-design with young people (14-24 years) or have integrated substantial, on-going adolescent consumer involvement through a formal mechanism.

To be eligible you must have at least 6 months of demonstrated experience and be able to provide details about the nature of engagement for us to determine your eligibility.

4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be invited to complete 2 rounds of short, **anonymous online surveys** (Delphi-style surveys) to rank and reach consensus on core competencies and essential reporting items. Each survey should take about 20 minutes to complete; you will have about two weeks to submit each round of surveys.

5. Can I withdraw once I have started?

Yes, being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney, The Kids Research Institute, Australia or The University of Adelaide.

If you decide to take part in the survey and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time before submitting your survey responses. However, because the online surveys are anonymous, and we will not be able to tell which answers are yours once you have submitted them.

6. Are there any risks or costs?

Reflecting on your experiences with co-research/c-design might elicit feelings of frustration or might be upsetting if you had negative experiences. You do not need to respond to any questions that makes you feel uncomfortable.

There are no direct costs related to participation. However, you may incur Wi-Fi/data costs from your internet service provider to complete the online survey.

7. Are there any benefits?

There is no direct benefit to your participation. However, your insight into core competencies and essential reporting items will improve our understanding of best practices in co-research/co-design with young people.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us gathering your opinion on what skills are reporting items are important via the anonymous online surveys.

This information will be stored securely at The University of Sydney and The Kids Research Institute Australia and will only be accessed by the research team.

Any identifiable information you provide us (e.g. your age and gender) will be stored securely and will only be disclosed with your permission unless we are required by law to release information.

You will not be individually identifiable in any study outputs.

De-identified data will be stored by the research team for a minimum of seven years after which it will be disposed of securely following University Sydney's Recordkeeping Policy. For more details about how your information will be handled please see the University's [privacy webpage](#).

9. Will I be told the results of the study?

You have the right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. We plan to publish the study findings through reports, peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, which will also be available on the C3 project website [<https://www.thekids.org.au/projects/the-c3-study/>] and promoted via social media channels.

10. What if I would like more information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher(s) will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Jaameeta Kurji at The Kids Research Institute, Australia – Jaameeta.kurji@thekids.org.au
- Stephanie Partridge at The University of Sydney - stephanie.partridge@sydney.edu.au

11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney (ethics reference: 2024/HE001649) according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager

human.ethics@sydney.edu.au

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This information sheet is for you to keep