

## Participant Information Statement – SURVEY ONLY

### Adolescent Experts (14-24 years)

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

Dr. Stephanie Partridge (Responsible Researcher)  
Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Faculty of Medicine and Health  
The University of Sydney  
Phone +61 2 8627 1697 | Email: [stephanie.partridge@sydney.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.partridge@sydney.edu.au)

---

#### 1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study to learn more about what **knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are necessary for adult researchers** (> 24 years) to have to be able to meaningfully work in partnership with adolescents (10-24 years) on research projects to improve adolescent health and wellbeing. Knowing what is required will adult researchers be better prepared and help them create safe and supportive spaces where young people can be equal partners in shaping adolescent health and wellbeing research.

We also want to understand what information is essential to include in descriptions about health research projects where adult researchers work in partnership with young people. Knowing this will help improve reporting in reports, scientific papers and other materials that are shared with the public including young people. With more complete reporting we can all decide what works well and what needs to change.

Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

#### 2. Who is running this study?

This project is being carried out by the following researchers and research team members who work in partnership with young people to improve health and wellbeing:

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

- Ms. Patience Castleton from The University of Adelaide
- Ms. Sabrina Uhlmann from The Kids Research Institute
- Ms. Nayonika Bhattacharya, youth steering committee member
- Mr. Kushagra Rathore, youth steering committee member
- Ms. Amelia Ascitutto, youth steering committee member

Funding to support this project is coming from an *NHMRC Investigator Grant* (Prof. Peter Azzopardi), a *Horizon Fellowship* (Dr. Stephanie Partridge) and an *NHMRC Emerging Leader Fellowship* (A/Prof Zohra Lassi).

### 3. Who can take part in the study?

We would like to hear from young people (14-24 years) who have prior experience or a strong interest in working in partnership with adult researchers (>24 years) in a health and/or wellbeing research project.

Examples of experience may include 6 months or more as a member of:

- an **advisory committee/council** (or other group) where a group of young people provide input or feedback on different aspects of a research project such as ways to recruit and collect data from adolescent participants.
- Group taking part in **co-design activities** such as workshops where young people help adult researchers create an intervention or program to be tested to see if it will improve or change the health and wellbeing of young people or help them use health services.

### 4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be invited to:

- Take part in a **short, anonymous online survey** to rank adult skills and knowledge, as well as reporting items in order of importance.
  - The survey will have a list of all the skills and reporting items that were mentioned in chats we had with young people and adults around the country.
  - Completing the survey should take about 25 minutes.
  - You will have about two weeks to complete it.
- Take part in another **short, anonymous online survey** to double check what the final rankings are to make sure you agree with them.
  - The survey should not take more than 10 minutes.
  - You will have about two weeks to complete it.

## 5. Can I withdraw from the survey?

**Participating in the survey 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.

However, because the online surveys are anonymous, and we will not be able to tell which answers are yours. We will only be able to remove the information you shared with us during the interview.

## 6. Are there any risks or costs?

Sometimes young people have had experiences working in health research that have been upsetting or discouraging. It is possible that completing the survey might remind you of unpleasant experiences that you may have had.

You do not need to answer any questions that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Here are contacts you can talk to and websites you can access if you feel distressed or upset, if that is what you want to do.

Kids Helpline:	T: 1800 551 800	W: <a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a>
Beyond Blue	T: 1300 22 4636	W: <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>
13YARN	T: 13 92 76	W: <a href="http://13yarn.org.au">13yarn.org.au</a>

There are no costs related to taking part in this project, but you may have Wifi or data charges to be able to complete the online surveys.

## 7. Are there any benefits?

There is no direct benefit to you from taking part in this project, but your ideas and experiences, together with those of all the other people taking part will help us work out what is needed to improve practices when working in partnership with young people in health research.

Reflecting on your contributions and input in the past, and the skills that you gained might be a satisfying experience.

You will receive one \$30 gift voucher for taking part in both rounds of the short, anonymous online surveys.

## 8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us gathering your opinion on what skills and 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.

We plan to publish the study findings through reports, scientific papers and on the project website and social media channels.

You will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

All the information collected (without names and personal details) 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 will put all the opinions, experiences and ideas shared by young people and adults who have had prior experience with co-research or co-design together. We will share summaries of findings through reports, scientific papers, presentations. All these will be available on the project website [<https://www.thekids.org.au/projects/the-c3-study/>] so that you can have a look at them.

## 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](mailto:Jaameeta.kurji@thekids.org.au)
- Stephanie Partridge at The University of Sydney - [stephanie.partridge@sydney.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)

+61 2 8627 8176

***This information sheet is for you to keep***