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Information Statement for the Research Project:  
**Evaluating peer parent support for parents  
who have had children removed from their care**

*Research team: Dr Nicola Ross, Jessica Cocks, Lou Johnston*

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**You are invited to participate in this research**, being conducted by the above research team.

This research project is part of an evaluation of the Parent Peer Support Project (PPSP) at Broadmeadow Children's Court. The research team are also involved in PPSP management. The PPSP is funded by the Law & Justice Foundation NSW.

***Why is the research being done?***

This research will look at **parents' experiences** of:

- Peer support (parent partners) when they attend care and protection legal proceedings at Broadmeadow Children's Court (Newcastle); and
- Workshops and resources about legal proceedings and children's time in care.

Learning about parents' experiences may **help us to find out:**

- the benefits of peer support for parents during legal proceedings
- the benefits of attending a workshop and getting information about legal proceedings and children's time in care
- what kind of support parents need most during legal proceedings

What we learn from parents will be **presented to workers and services** to help improve how they support parents in legal proceedings.

***Who can participate in the research?***

We are seeking parents who attend Broadmeadow Children's Court for care and protection court matters after their children were removed and placed in care.

Your invitation to participate may have come from us via an email from the Parent Peer Support Project coordinator, or a poster or flyer that advertises our research at the court or on the website or Facebook page of Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter Inc (FISH).

*Criteria – next page ...*

### **You can participate if:**

- You had contact with a parent partner at Broadmeadow Children's Court or in a workshop; and
- You are 18 years or older; and
- You are involved in current child protection proceedings at Broadmeadow Children's Court in relation to a child.

### ***What would you be asked to do?***

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete one or more **brief online surveys**. The number will depend on how many PPSP activities you complete:

1. *SURVEY ABOUT SUPPORT AT COURT*: Please complete each time you have contact with a parent partner when you attend Broadmeadow Children's Court;

AND/OR

2. *SURVEY ABOUT THE WORKSHOP*: Please complete each time you attend the workshop provided by the PPSP, titled, 'My children have been removed: What can I expect?' The workshop is not compulsory. You may choose to attend it more than once.

### ***What choice do you have?***

Doing these surveys is entirely your choice. Only people who give their informed consent will be included in this research. Whether or not you decide to do the surveys, your decision will make no difference in your court matter.

If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw and stop completing the survey at any time. Because the surveys are anonymous you cannot withdraw your response after you click submit. Your consent is implied once you submit your survey responses.

### ***How much time will it take?***

Each survey should take about **5 minutes** to complete. It may take less.

### ***What are the risks and benefits of participating?***

It is possible a survey question might be sensitive, such as, managing your emotions at court.

If you find any questions upsetting, you can stop completing the survey. It might also help to talk to a friend, a counsellor, or other support person. A list of example services and support is at the end of this document.

Participating in the surveys means you have an opportunity to contribute to an evaluation of peer support for parents at court and to help improve parent support and services in the future.

### ***How will your privacy be protected?***

Your survey responses will be completely anonymous because you will not enter your name on the surveys and your responses will not be identifiable to you.

Data (your survey responses) will be retained securely for a minimum period of 5 years from completion of the research and managed/stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (see <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy

provisions (as amended from time to time). The university's privacy policy can be found at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/privacy>.

The online surveys will be hosted by SurveyMonkey, a software program commonly used by researchers. SurveyMonkey protects survey data through periodic scans, identification, and remediation of security vulnerabilities on servers, workstations, network equipment, and applications. The SurveyMonkey privacy policy is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/legal/privacy-policy/>

### ***How will the information collected be used?***

Once all participants' survey responses are put together, a summary of the results will be available when the PPSP ends (after March 2020) via Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter (FISH) website (<http://www.finclusionh.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/familyinclusionhunter/>).

The results may be published in reports, books and academic journals as well as presented at workshops and conferences. Individual participants will not be identifiable in any reports arising from this research although individual anonymous responses may be quoted.

Non-identifiable data may be also be shared with other parties to encourage scientific scrutiny, and to contribute to further research and public knowledge.

### ***What do you need to do to participate?***

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you complete a survey. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, please contact the chief investigator or one of the researchers (see contact details below).

If you would like to participate, select the relevant link below. The link you choose depends on the PPSP activity you just completed.

Support at court: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPSP\\_courtsupport](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPSP_courtsupport)  
Remember, we are asking you to complete this same survey each time you have contact with a parent partner when you attend court.

Workshop: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPSP\\_infoworkshops](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPSP_infoworkshops)

Completion of an online survey will be taken as your implied consent to participate.

### ***Further information***

If you would like further information, please contact the chief investigator (contact details below).

**Thank you for considering this invitation.**



**Dr Nicola Ross, Chief Investigator**  
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*Other researchers on the team + example supports – see next page ...*

## Other researchers on the team

### Jessica Cocks

Practice Lead, Children, Families and Young People, Life Without Barriers |  
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### Lou Johnston

FISH committee | Research Assistant, School of Humanities and Social Science, UoN | practice consultant

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## Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2019-0225.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the Chief Investigator, Dr Nicola Ross (Phone: 4921 5871 or <mailto:Nicola.Ross@newcastle.edu.au>), or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Ethics Officer, Research and Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333 or email [Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au).

## Support and Service Options

These are **examples** of services. Others may be more suitable. **Please note** some may have a cost.

If you need to speak to someone **immediately** call:

**LIFELINE** 13 11 14 <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> OR **MENSLINE** 1300 78 99 78 <http://www.mensline.org.au/>

**Other examples of supports or services:** \* Indicates the service charges a fee

### BAPTISTCARE

1300 660 640 <https://baptistcare.org.au/our-services/community-services/>

### FAMILY SUPPORT NEWCASTLE

(02) 4926 3577 <https://nfss.org.au/>

### FAMILY INCLUSION STRATEGIES IN THE HUNTER (FISH)

(monthly support group for parents)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/familyinclusionhunter/>

Website: <http://www.finclusionh.org/>

Email: [contact@finclusionh.org](mailto:contact@finclusionh.org)

### AWABAKAL MEDICAL SERVICE

02 4907 8555

[www.awabakal.org/our-health/medical-service](http://www.awabakal.org/our-health/medical-service)

### MULOOBINBA FAMILY SUPPORT

02 4969 5299

[www.muloobinba.org.au/family-support-project](http://www.muloobinba.org.au/family-support-project)

### COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Referral and Information Centre:

(02) 4924 2590

### RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA\*

1300 364 277 <http://www.nsw.relationships.com.au/>

Online help: <http://www.relationshiphelponline.com.au/>

### UNIFAM COUNSELLING and MEDIATION\*

(02) 4925 6000

[http://www.unifamcounselling.org/contact\\_us/newcastle](http://www.unifamcounselling.org/contact_us/newcastle)

### PRIVATE COUNSELLORS, SOCIAL WORKERS and PSYCHOLOGISTS\*

- Google [search](#), 'counsellors Newcastle'
- Yellow Pages ([online](#)), 'Counselling- Marriage, Family, Personal' + 'Newcastle'