

INFORMATION SHEET

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Role of Empathy, Compassion, and Reflective Capacity on Parental Perceptions of Attachment in Raising Autistic Children.

Project Overview

This project is being completed by Diana Raward as a research project for the Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours). This research looks into the parental attributes of empathy, compassion and reflective capacity and how they relate to parental perceptions of their attachment towards their autistic children, their mood and perceived social support.

Participation Procedure

You are invited to participate in an anonymous online survey that asks some general demographics questions and questions related to psychological attributes of reflective capacity, compassion, empathy, mood, perceived attachment and perceived social support. As these scales are not designed specifically for raising autistic children some questions may not fully apply, you are encouraged to respond as you feel best fits.

Completion of the survey will take around 15 minutes. Participation in this project will not affect your employment, academic standing or association with the University.

Benefits and Risks

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this project. However, it is expected that this project may benefit all parents raising autistic children through identifying parental attributes, inner characteristics, that help foster secure attachment and positive outcomes. Understanding how these attributes relate to perceived attachment, parents' moods and perceived social support allows future parenting interventions to be created that build on these parental strengths rather than rely on changing autistic children. Most participants find the experience of completing the survey a novel addition to everyday life.

You may experience inconvenience in giving up your time to complete this online survey. We do not anticipate that participation in this research will cause you any undue discomfort beyond that experienced in normal day to day living. However, we acknowledge that the day to day stresses of raising special needs children, in this case those with Autism, could mean that some participants find this research potentially distressing as it may highlight the difficulties being faced. If you are concerned or need assistance please consider viewing the support available through the Carer Gateway <https://www.carergateway.gov.au> ph. 1800 422 737, Monday to Friday 8 am-6 pm. Alternatively your General Practitioner can help locate services and supports, such as Medicare rebated access to mental health professionals.

Confidentiality / Anonymity

The survey will not collect any identifying information; your responses will be anonymous.

The data collected will be kept for seven (7) years after the last use of the data (e.g. publications/submission of thesis) in accordance with the Australian Psychological Society Guidelines.

Outcome

The results of this research will be incorporated into an assessable piece by the student in the form of a dissertation or report. Publication is anticipated for this research, as a journal article or conference



paper. The research findings will be shared with communities of researchers seeking to better understand how to support and promote wellbeing in Autism.

Consent

Your consent to participate in this project will be obtained through your agreement to the Electronic Consent to commence the survey

Right to Withdraw

Your participation in this research survey is voluntary. You may withdraw at any time prior to completing the survey simply by closing the survey window on your web browser. If you wish to withdraw after submitting the survey, the information you have already provided cannot be deleted. This is because we will not be collecting any identifiable information from you and therefore, will not be able to identify your information.

Feedback

A short summary of the project's findings in plain English will be available in October 2019 on the student researcher's website.

<http://dianaraward.com/research/parental-attributes-in-raising-autistic-children>

Questions/ Further Information

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the project supervisor Associate Professor Talitha Best via t.best@cqu.edu.au or the student Diana Raward via diana.raward@cquemail.com.

Please contact Central Queensland University's Research Division (Tel: 07 4923 2603; E-mail: ethics@cqu.edu.au; Mailing address: Building 32, CQUniversity, 554-700 Yaamba Road, Norman Gardens QLD 4701) should there be any concerns about the nature and/or conduct of this research project.

This project has been approved by the CQUniversity Human Research Ethics Committee, approval number 2019-015.

ELECTRONIC CONSENT:

Clicking on the "next" button below indicates that:

- You have read the above information
- You voluntarily agree to participate; and
- You give your consent for the data you provide in the following survey to be used for the assessment and research purpose described above