



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT

### Interview with parents of autistic students

Exploring the experiences of positive behaviour support implementation from the perspective of high school autistic students, their teachers, school leaders, and parents in Queensland

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 7438**

#### Research team

Principal Researcher: Mr Joseph Athiende, PhD student  
Associate Researcher(s): A/Prof Sofia Mavropoulou, Principal Supervisor  
Dr Glenys Mann, Associate Supervisor

#### School of Education

Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice  
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

#### Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is being undertaken as part of a PhD study for Mr Joseph Athiende. The purpose of this project is to explore the perspective of key stakeholders on their experiences of implementing positive behaviour support (PBS) or Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), as it is known in QLD, to support the behaviour and learning of autistic students.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you are a parent/guardian of an autistic student enrolled in years 8, 9, or 10, at a state secondary school in Queensland, and who is supported through the Positive Behaviour for Learning "PBL" framework. You have valuable insights and perspectives about the behaviour support that your child has received or is receiving, which could contribute to improving learning outcomes for autistic students.

#### What does participation involve?

Your participation will involve an audio-recorded interview at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus or a community space that you nominate (which is private, with minimal distractions), or online (via Teams/Zoom). The interview will take approximately 1 hour of your time. The interview will include open-ended questions about your experience with the behaviour supports your child has received or is currently receiving at their school.

Questions will include:

*Tell me about the support that you receive from school staff to apply positive behaviour support for (name of student) at home?*

*What is your experience about the effect of behaviour support on (name of student)? Tell me about the effect on (name of student)'s*

- A. behaviour,*
- B. learning and*
- C. wellbeing.*

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the research project at **any time, including during the interview** process, without comment or penalty. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

The student researcher will email you a copy of the original interview transcript of your responses after the interview so that you can check the accuracy of the transcript. It is estimated the transcript review will take approximately 30 minutes.

#### **What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?**

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcome of this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of stakeholder experiences of PBL implementation, thereby contributing to knowledge about PBL implementation for high school autistic students. You can request a summary of the outcomes of this study by checking the box on the consent form.

To recognise your contribution, should you choose to participate, the research team is offering a \$60 Ultimate Shopping Gift Card as a token of appreciation for your time.

#### **What are the possible risks for me if I take part?**

The research team has identified the following possible risks in relation to participating in this study: Taking part in this research may inconvenience you because of the time you commit. In addition, the interview may cause discomfort and distress by triggering recollections of negative past experiences.

To mitigate these risks, the student researcher will offer you your preferred time and location for the interview. The interview guide will be emailed to you ahead of the interview. During the interview, you can have a break or terminate the interview should you feel discomfort or distress during the interview. In addition, you can access QUT Counselling Support on 07 3138 0999 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm). If you agree to participate, but change your mind, you can withdraw from the research project at any time during the interview process without comment or penalty.

#### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

All interview responses will be de-identified after the interview by removing or changing any potentially identifying feature. The information that will be changed includes your name, your child's name and the name of your child's school. However, all interviews will be coded, and it would be possible to re-identify you using the code. This re-identifying code will be stored separately to personal information (e.g., name), and will only be accessible to the research team. The code plus identifying information will be destroyed at the end of the lifecycle of this research project.

If you withdraw from the study, you can request that any information already obtained from you is removed from the analysis. Research data created in the conduct of this research will be retained for 5 years after the last action. Records relating to consent obtained from individuals to participate in this research activities including signed consent forms will be retained for 15

years after this research is concluded or abandoned as per QUT's Management of Research Data Policy.

As the research project involves an audio recording:

- You will have the opportunity to verify your comments and responses prior to final inclusion for data analysis.
- The recording will be retained for the minimum retention period of 5 years after the last research activity.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use your names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that due to the small number of participants, if you are quoted directly, your identity may become known to others in the organisation as a participant in this research.

#### **How do I give my consent to participate?**

Please sign the written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate and return it by email or in person to Mr Joseph Athiende.

#### **What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

**Mr Joseph Athiende** [joseph.athiende@hdr.qut.edu.au](mailto:joseph.athiende@hdr.qut.edu.au) 07 3138 3469

**A/Prof Sofia Mavropoulou** [sofia.mavropoulou@qut.edu.au](mailto:sofia.mavropoulou@qut.edu.au) 07 3138 3469

**Dr Glenys Mann** [glenys.mann@qut.edu.au](mailto:glenys.mann@qut.edu.au) 07 3138 0186

#### **What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team at 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project.**

**Please keep this sheet for your information.**