



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT

Interview with Teachers and School Leaders

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 conducted by 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 registered teacher with experience in implementing PBL to support autistic students in years 8, 9, or 10 in state secondary schools in Queensland.

Or

- A school leader {Deputy Principal, Head of Department (HoD) or Head of Special Education Services) with experience in PBL. You are also invited because you are implementing PBL to support autistic students in years 8, 9, or 10 in state secondary schools in Queensland.

What does participation involve?

Your participation will involve an audio-recorded interview at QUT Kelvin Grove Campus or community spaces that you nominate, ensuring privacy and minimising distractions during the interview or online (via Teams/Zoom) that will take approximately 1 hour of your time. The interview will include open-ended questions about your experiences of implementing PBL to support autistic student/s at your school.

Questions for **teachers** will include:

Tell me about the PBL strategies that you use to support autistic student/s.

- A. What strategies have worked well in your PBL practice when supporting student/s and why did the strategies work well?*
- B. Tell me about strategies that have not worked well in your PBL practice when supporting autistic students. Why did the strategies not work well?*

Tell me about the challenges you have experienced in your PBL practice for autistic student/s.

Questions for **school leaders** will include:

I am interested to hear about the support for implementing PBL for autistic student/s.

- A. What support do you provide to teachers to deliver PBL for autistic student/s*
- B. Tell me about the support you receive from the regional office to deliver PBL for autistic student/s*

In your experience, what impact has PBL practice had on autistic student/s in terms of:

- i). behaviour, ii) learning and iii) wellbeing*
- a) How do you measure the long-term success of PBL for autistic students?*
- b) Have you noticed any lasting improvements in behaviour, effort, or academic achievement?*

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from the research project at **any time 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 researcher will email you the interview questions prior to the interview.

The student researcher will also email you a copy of the original interview transcript of your responses after the interview to check the accuracy. The transcript review is estimated to 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. Your story can help schools know what they can do better when working with autistic students to provide behavioural support. You can request a summary of the outcome 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 recollection of negative past experiences.

To mitigate these risks, the student researcher will check with you about the suitable time and location of the interview. The interview guide will be emailed to you ahead of the interview. During the interview, you can take a break or terminate the interview should you feel discomfort or distress. In addition, you can access QUT Counselling Support on 07 3138 0999 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm). It should be noted that if you do agree to participate, 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 coded, i.e., it will be possible to re-identify you. A re-identifying code stored separately to personal information (e.g., name), will only be accessible to the research team, and the code plus identifying information will be destroyed at the end of the lifecycle of this research project. Any potentially identifying feature will be removed or changed after the interview. The information that will be replaced includes your name and the name of your school.

If you withdraw during your interview, on request, any information already obtained that can be linked to you, will be 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 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 any 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?

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate and return by email or in person the signed consent form 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 07 3138 3469

A/Prof Sofia Mavropoulou sofia.mavropoulou@qut.edu.au 07 3138 3469

Dr Glenys Mann 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.

Thank you for helping with this research project.

Please keep this sheet for your information.