

## Explanatory Statement

### Australian practitioners, workers and leaders

**Project ID:** 48131

**Project Title:** Emerging Minds Longitudinal Evaluation and Research Network (LEARN) Study

#### Chief Researcher:

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Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project.

The following pages provide information about the project, to help you decide if you would like to take part in this research. Please read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can stop at any time.

#### What does this research involve?

The aim of this research is to consider changes over time in practitioners, workers and leaders who engage with Emerging Minds National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (NWC) through a variety of learning, engagement and support opportunities. We are interested to understand how our resources and support impact your work with children, parents or families to improve child mental health outcomes.

You will be asked to complete online surveys starting with an initial baseline survey and then one every six months for up to three years. The surveys will take up to 15 minutes each to complete. Surveys will ask you about yourself, your work role and to recall the types of Emerging Minds resources you may have recently used. It will also ask you to rate your current capabilities across a range of topics relevant to the children's mental health and about your impressions of the NWC. Each year we will invite

you to take part in an optional online focus group. Focus group sessions are expected to run for one to two hours. They will be video/audio recorded (for the purpose of producing a transcript for analysis) and will include up to 10 participants plus the facilitating researchers. Further information is available in this statement about how we will manage your data and confidentiality. Also see below for information regarding payment for participation in the research.

After registering for the research and completing the initial baseline survey, we will email you every six months with a link for the next survey and we may send several reminders around this time. Email invites to the focus groups will be sent once each year and may not be sent to all participants. As part of the research, we may send you information about Emerging Minds resources or this research project every couple of months. This will help you stay informed of new resources and how you are contributing to an improved understanding of how best to support practitioners, workers and leaders providing children's mental health care.

As part of the research, Emerging Minds will match data you provide with your engagement on our learning management and facilitation platforms (e.g. Emerging Minds Learning or LearnUpon). While we will use your email address to perform this match, data will be de-identified for analysis. Further information is available in this statement about matching and de-identifying data.

This research has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (Project ID: 48131).

#### Why were you invited for this research?

You are invited to take part in this research as you have connected with Emerging Minds National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health.

#### Source of funding

This research project is funded by Emerging Minds as part of its delivery of the NWC under the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program.

## **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Consent to participate in this research is provided by checking the consent box on the research registration page. You will also provide opt in consent before completing online surveys (via a check box) and again when participating in focus groups (via an online form when signing up to a focus group session).

You can withdraw from the evaluation at any time by choosing not to complete surveys or participate in the optional focus groups. As survey data will be de-identified, it will not be possible to withdraw data once survey responses have been submitted. However, should you participate in a focus group, you will have five business days after the session to withdraw. After this, feedback will be anonymised in the analysis of the session transcript and will not be able to be withdrawn.

## **Possible benefits and risks to participate**

There are not likely to be any direct benefits for you from being involved in this research, however the findings may help Emerging Minds to better understand what influences professionals and organisational settings to enhance child mental health practice.

There are not expected to be any risks in participating in this research beyond slight discomfort in providing verbal feedback during the optional focus group, should you choose to participate. If talking with the researcher makes you feel upset, or you have any other concerns about participating, you are welcome to call a member of the research team, Dr Melinda Goodyear (08 8367 0888). Additionally, our researchers are all experienced interviewers who can help you find a support such as a GP or a mental health worker. Alternatively, you may wish to call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

## **Payment**

After completing each survey, held once every six months, you are eligible to receive a \$20 e-gift card for Woolworths Group. After submitting your survey response online, you will have the option to securely provide your details via an online form for use by an Emerging Minds Finance Officer to process the e-gift card. Should you choose to join an annual focus group, you will be eligible to receive a \$50 e-gift card for each hour of participation. At the end of each focus group, Emerging Minds researchers will grant access to an Emerging Minds Finance Officer a list of session participants to process e-gift cards. Processing of e-gift cards is conditional on completing the activities you are invited to participate in. Participation in these activities is voluntary. You will be asked for your name and email address to enable processing.

## **Confidentiality**

While researchers will use email addresses to match survey responses and engagement with our learning platforms over time, all data relating to you will be de-identified prior to any analyses. This means that after the data is matched, it will be assigned a unique identifier and when researchers run their analyses, they will not be able to determine who the data was collected from.

Findings from focus groups will be summarised and reported at a group level to further protect your identity. Focus group discussions are confidential and should you choose to participate, you will agree not to share details of the discussion outside of the focus group. Should you choose to participate in a focus group, you may choose to join the session using a pseudonym and/or leave your camera off for privacy if you wish.

Survey and focus group data will only be presented in de-identified format and raw data will not be available outside of the researchers. There are several limited exceptions to this. One exception is where the video/ audio recording of a focus group will be provided to a third-party service provider through a secure web-based platform for the purposes of receiving a transcript of the discussion. The second is where a third-party service provider may administer one of our learning platforms and will help us extract data about learner engagement from the database. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of confidentiality and privacy. Therefore, we ensure that all third-party service providers strictly adhere to rigorous confidentiality and privacy agreements.

Information collected through this research will be used as the basis for a report that is provided to Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to understand how we are supporting practitioners and organisations to improve child mental health practice. Findings may be collated for different audiences to demonstrate the challenges and impact of practice, organisational and systems change in the health, community and social service sectors. High-level findings (using aggregated, de-identified results) could be disseminated via a variety of activities including academic articles, case studies, infographics, research highlights, or conference materials. .

## **Storage of data**

We will store the information you give us in a secure location on a server which only members of the research team have access to. Only research staff will have direct access to information provided. All data will be stored at Emerging Minds for a minimum of five years before it will be destroyed. Electronic data will be stored on the secure password protected server. In the event paper copies of consent forms are received

from focus group participants, these will be scanned for secure online storage and paper copies securely destroyed.

### Use of data for other purposes

Aggregate de-identified data may be made available for use in other Emerging Minds or Monash University projects. This data will be held on secure data repositories within Monash University. Any stored data will not include your identifying details.

### Results

If you would like to know the results of the project, you can contact the evaluation team by emailing [learnstudy@emergingminds.com.au](mailto:learnstudy@emergingminds.com.au) and we will send you a summary once available.

### Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

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Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,  
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
Research Office  
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Thank you,



Dr Melinda Goodyear