

# Centre for Children and Young People



research, education & advocacy

16 November 2010.

Dear Colleagues,

## **Building Capacity for Ethical Research Involving Children and Young People**

The Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP), a Key Institution of the Childwatch International Research Network,<sup>1</sup> is convening an international research project aimed at examining the ethical issues and challenges in undertaking research with and for children in different majority and minority world contexts.

Researchers from the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) at the University of Otago, NZ (Dr Nicola Taylor & Dr Mary Ann Powell), the Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre (SJSC), University of Western Sydney, Australia (Emeritus Professor Jan Mason, Associate Professor Natalie Bolzan & Dr Janet Falloon), and the Centre for Rural Childhood, Perth College University of the Highlands Millennium Institute, Scotland (Professor Rebecca Wallace), are partnering with the Centre for Children and Young People (Professor Anne Graham, Dr Robyn Fitzgerald, Dr Sallie Newell & Dr Renata Phelps) to undertake the project.

The project will also identify ethics guidelines or resources available in different countries which could be translated, analysed and disseminated as part of the overall project of identifying 'best practice' internationally in relation to ethical research with and for children.

As part of the project, an on-line survey has been developed and we are inviting international researchers who undertake research with children and young people to participate in the survey. We warmly invite your involvement in the study.

## **What is the Childwatch International Research Network?**

Childwatch is a global, non-profit, nongovernmental network of institutions that collaborate in child research for the purpose of promoting child rights and improving children's well-being around the world. It was founded in 1993 as a response from the research community to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), an instrument for changing the focus of research and for ensuring that the perspectives of children are heard. The Convention is the basis for the Network's common agenda. The study is auspiced by the Childwatch International Research Network.

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<sup>1</sup> The core of the Childwatch research network is 30 Key Institutions within the field of child research. The Institutions represent all continents and a variety of disciplines. The Key Institutions have individual profiles, differing history and background, scope, size and organizational structure. For further information go to: <http://child-abuse.com/childhouse/childwatch/profiles/index.html>.



## How can you be involved?

Directors from all Childwatch Key Institutions have been asked to distribute information about this study to researchers in their respective countries who undertake research with children and young people. We would very much appreciate your involvement by completing the initial online survey. Your response to the survey will be anonymous.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary and there will be no consequences for you if you decide not to take part. It is anticipated that the survey will take you an estimated 10-15 minutes.

If you do agree to complete the survey, you do not have to answer every question. Just proceed to the next question.

## How will the information from the survey be used?

The information collected in the survey will be collated and then used to inform the development of a major study commencing in June 2011. All information collected in the survey will be stored securely at the University in password protected computer files. Only authorised researchers undertaking the project will be able to access. On-line data will be collected using Qualtrix, which ensures security of data.

The survey has been approved by the Southern Cross University Research Ethics Committee - project number ECN-10-184. If you have any concerns about the **ethical conduct** of the research, this survey or the researchers you may contact the Committee through the Ethics Complaints Officer: Southern Cross University. *Mail:* PO Box 157, Lismore, NSW, 2480. *Email:* [ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au](mailto:ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au). All complaints, in the first instance, should be in writing to the above address. All complaints are confidential and will be handled as soon as possible. You will be informed of the outcome.

## What should I do now?

If you are willing to complete the survey, please go to  
<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/edu/ccyp/Ethics/>  
and log onto the on-line survey.

If you have any further questions about the study, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Anne Graham

Director, Centre for Children & Young People

Southern Cross University, Australia

Email: [anne.graham@scu.edu.au](mailto:anne.graham@scu.edu.au)