

Participant Information Sheet

- ***A description of the project in language appropriate to the audience***

The aim of this project is to explore the life experiences of adults with Asperger syndrome. The life experiences, which will be explored, include marriage, family relations, education, employment, health and welfare and self perceptions of Asperger syndrome.

The participants will be interviewed twice and each interview session will last between thirty-five to sixty minutes in length. In the first interview session the participants will be asked a series of questions about their life experiences. In the second interview session the participant will review their answers from the first interview session and will discuss some more of their life experiences.

- ***An explanation of the participant's role in the project***

The participant's role is to provide in-depth information about their life experiences of having Asperger syndrome.

- ***Alternatives to participation***

The participants are expected to attend two interview sessions. There are no alternatives to participation.

- ***How the research will be monitored***

The progress of this research will be monitored by the researcher's Principal Supervisor, Dr. Brian Matthews, who can be contacted via the following contact details:

Postal Address

Dr. Brian Matthews
Disability and Community Inclusion
Faculty of Health Sciences
GPO Box 2100
ADELAIDE
SA 5001

Telephone number

08 8201 3448

Fax Number

08 8201 3646

Email

Brian.Matthews@flinders.edu.au

- ***Provision of services to participants adversely affected by the research, ie a list of free counselling services***

Prior to the beginning of the first and second interview session the participant will be provided with a list of counselling services.

- ***Contact details of the researchers***

Please find enclosed below the researcher's contact details:

Postal Address

Dr. Brain Matthews care of Mr. Matthew Bennett
Disability and Community Inclusion
Faculty of Health Sciences
GPO Box 2100
ADELAIDE
SA 5001

Email address

benn0299@flinders.edu.au

Phone number

0431 154 925

- ***How the participant's privacy and confidentiality will be protected***

The researcher will maintain the participant's confidentiality by replacing any specific data items which could be used to identify the participants with pseudonyms.

Among other things the specific data items which will be replaced with pseudonyms in the final thesis include the following:

1. The personal name and age of the participants or their immediate friends and family.
2. The participant's residential location. For example, a street address or suburb.
3. Named facilities or service providers. For example, the name of the participant's employer.
4. Important participant dates. For example, date of a hospital operation.
5. Unique characteristics of the participant. For example, a rare health condition or occupation.
6. Highly visible characteristics of the participant. For example, ethnicity or a visible disability.

- ***The participant's right to withdraw from further participation at any stage, along with any implications of withdrawal, and whether it will be possible to withdraw data***

The participants are advised that they can withdraw from the study at any time during the interview sessions and do not need to give any reason for their decision.

Upon withdrawing from the study the participants can have their responses to the interview questions removed from the thesis and from all electronic storage devices (i.e. USB Drives and Hard Disk Drives) and Hardcopy storage units (i.e. Flinders University and the researcher's locked filing cabinets).

- ***Amounts and sources of funding for the research***

Please note that all funding for this research project will come from the Flinders University Student Maintenance Fund.

- ***Re-imbusement of costs to participants***

The participant will receive one \$25.00 gift voucher for the first interview session and another \$25.00 gift voucher for the second interview session. They will receive a total of \$50.00 in gift vouchers. The gift vouchers offered include either a JB HI-FI Gift Voucher or a Westfield Gift Voucher.

- ***The likelihood and form of dissemination of the research results, including publication***

The participants' responses to the interview questions will be placed into the final thesis and into any journal articles in a de-identified form.

- ***Expected benefits to the wider community***

The expected benefits of this project to the wider community include:

1. Highlight the benefits which adults with Asperger syndrome bring to their society.
2. Contribute to the current body of scientific knowledge about Asperger syndrome.
3. Create and share knowledge, strategies and ideas which will enhance the public's understanding of Asperger syndrome.