

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent/Guardian

This letter is to introduce Ms Melanie Gorman who is an Honours student in the Department of Social Work at Flinders University. She will produce her student card, which carries a photograph, as proof of identity.

She is undertaking research leading to the production of a thesis or other publications on the subject of the effect of the Disability Standards for Education (2005) on exclusion of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders from mainstream schooling.

She would be most grateful if you would volunteer to assist in this project, by completing a questionnaire which covers certain aspects of this topic. No more than half an hour would be required. If you are willing, a follow up interview, no more than an hour in length, will be organised to cover certain aspects of the topic in more depth.

Be assured that any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and none of the participants will be individually identifiable in the resulting thesis, report or other publications. You are, of course, entirely free to discontinue your participation at any time or to decline to answer particular questions.

Since she intends to make a tape recording of the interview, she will seek your consent, on the attached form, to record the interview, to use the recording or a transcription in preparing the thesis, report or other publications, on condition that your name or identity is not revealed, and to make the recording available to other researchers on the same conditions.

If you are willing to be involved, please contact her at gorm0024@flinders.edu.au to commence the process.

Any enquiries you may have concerning this project should be directed to me at the address given above or by telephone on 8201 2720, by fax on 8201 3760 or by email (fiona.verity@flinders.edu.au).

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Yours sincerely

A/Prof Fiona Verity
Head
Department of Social Work and Social Planning

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project Number 5084). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au.