**PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT - PARENTS**

Date: 16/05/2022

**Full Project Title:** Exploring parent and clinician experiences and preferences concerning early intervention home programs.

**Student Researcher:** Ms. Liana Konjarski

**Principal Investigators:**  Dr Kate Anderson, Dr Jennifer David

**Project Reference Number:** HEAG-H 89\_2022

Dear Participant,

We are conducting research at Deakin University to further understand parent and clinician experience of, and preferences for, home programs in early intervention allied health services. As a parent/carer of a child who receives early intervention services, we warmly invite you to participate.

This Plain Language Statement contains information about the purpose of this study and what will be involved in participating should you decide to do so. The information in this statement will help you to make a fully informed decision about whether you want to be involved. Please read this Plain Language Statement carefully. Feel free to ask questions about anything in the document. Please keep a copy of this Plain Language Statement for your reference.

You can tell other people about this research.

1. **Purpose of the research**

Home programs are often provided by allied health practitioners to families of children with developmental delay and disabilities. This research project aims to explore what parents and allied health clinicians think about home programs in early childhood intervention services, and what their experiences and preferences are. The findings of this project will help allied health professionals create home programs that better meet the needs of children with disability and their families.

1. **Who can participate?**

You will be eligible for this study if you are a parent who either currently participates in, or has participated in, Early Childhood Intervention/ allied health therapy within the last 12 months.  
  
To participate in the research, you must:

* Have had experience with home programs
* Have received at least four sessions of Early Intervention therapy
* Be able to speak and understand English without need for an interpreter.

You cannot participate in this research if your child has only ever received therapy services at school or preschool.

1. **What does this study involve?**

***Phase 1: Pre Interview Survey***

If you participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a short 5 – 10 minute multiple choice and short answer survey with questions about participant backgrounds and experiences. These responses will be used to facilitate individual interview questions and provide insight into the contextual background of the participant.

***Phase 2: Semi structured individual interviews***

Participants will thentake part in a short 30-60 minute individual semi structured interview via video conferencing or phone. In these interviews, the researchers will ask participants questions relating to their experiences with home programs. They will also explore your opinions and preferences about home program characteristics and delivery through brainstorming activities. All video interviews will be recorded and transcribed, and you will receive a copy of the transcription.

1. **Voluntary participation**

Your participation in the research project is voluntary. Your decision to or not to participate, or your decision to withdraw at any time, will not influence your relationship with Early Childhood Intervention Services or Deakin University, or any of the researchers involved in the project.

You can withdrawal from the project at any time. Please contact Ms **Liana Konjarski** via email on [lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au](mailto:lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au), or sign and return the attached withdrawal request form to the contact address listed.

1. Potential risks and benefits

We do not expect there will be any direct benefits to you or your child in participating in this study. However, we hope that you will enjoy sharing your experiences and perspectives on this topic. Through the research activities you may also develop new ideas about the potential use, content and format of home programs, that you are welcome to share with your child’s clinician. The human centred design thinking methods that will be used in this study have helped researchers to make health services more effective, appropriate and client centred in the past (Altman, Huang & Breland, 2018; Anderson, 2021). The overall findings may benefit current and future early childhood intervention service providers, and families who use their programs.

We do not anticipate any risks for you in completing a survey and interview with us as there are no high risk topics being discussed and the researchers are familiar with the topic information. If you choose to participate, you can select a date and time and day that suits you. All interviews will take place via phone or video call.

We do not expect that the interview or survey will cause distress. However, if anything raised during the interviews causes you to feel uncomfortable, we are happy to pause or end the discussion. You can skip any survey or interview questions that you do not wish to answer. We also welcome you to talk to us about any concerns before, during, or after the research activities. We have also provided a list of support services at the end of this document. These services available to you at any time should you wish.

1. Privacy and confidentiality

We will keep your identity private by removing or changing your name, and the names of any people, places, and services that you mention.

1. **Research Funding**

This project is being undertaken by Ms Liana Konjarski, a practicing speech pathologist, as part of her Master of Disability and Inclusion studies at Deakin University. She is supervised by Dr Kate Anderson and Dr Jennifer David. The project is funded by Deakin University.

1. Complaints and queries

If you have any **complaints** about the research project or any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office

Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125  
Telephone: 9251 7129; research-ethics@deakin.edu.au.

**Please quote project number**

Any **queries** can be directed to Ms Liana Konjarski, Dr Kate Anderson or Dr Jennifer David:

Ms Liana Konjarski [lkonjarski@deakin.com.au](mailto:lkonjarski@deakin.com.au)

Dr Kate Anderson [kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au](mailto:kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au) 03 9251 7850

Dr Jennifer David [j.david@deakin.edu.au](mailto:j.david@deakin.edu.au) 03 9246 8790

Support service provider contact details

Beyond Blue: 24/7 Support Service 1300 22 4636

Lifeline: 24/7 Crisis Support 13 11 14

Carers Victoria: 1800 514 845

Carer Gateway: 1800 422 737

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**CONSENT FORM**

**Full Project Title:** Exploring parent and clinician experiences and preferences concerning early intervention home programs.

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**Parents**

* I understand that my participation is voluntary. I understand that I can withdraw my data from the project at any time prior to data analysis.
* I give permission for audio-visual data to be recorded. I understand that the research team will have access to these recordings.
* I consent to the use of the collected, de-identified data for publication, public presentations, or during the consultation processes.

Participant’s Name (printed) ……………………………………………………………………

Signature ……………………………………………………… Date …………………………

**Consent forms can be returned via:**

**Email:** Ms Liana Konjarski at [lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au](mailto:lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au) or Dr Kate Anderson at [kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au](mailto:kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au)

**Post:** Dr Kate Anderson, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University

Melbourne Burwood Campus, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, VIC 3125

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**Consent WITHDRAWAL Form**

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I hereby wish to WITHDRAW my consent to participate in the above research project and understand that such withdrawal WILL NOT jeopardise my relationship with Deakin University or any other organisation*.*

Participant’s Name (printed) ………………………………………………………………..

Signature ………………………………………………………………. Date ……………………

Please return this withdrawal form to:

**Email:** Ms Liana Konjarski at [lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au](mailto:lkonjarski@deakin.edu.au) or Dr Kate Anderson at [kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au](mailto:kate.anderson2@deakin.edu.au)

**Post:** Dr Kate Anderson, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University

Melbourne Burwood Campus, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, VIC 3125