

Participant Information Sheet (General)

Project Title: Adult Children of Parents with Mental Illness: Their Narratives of Being Parented and Parenting.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being undertaken by Gill Murphy as part of a Higher Degree with the University of Western Sydney, Family and Child Health Research Centre.

The research is being supervised by Dr. Kath Peters; Prof. Debra Jackson and Prof. Lesley Wilkes.

What is the study about?

The purpose is to investigate the accounts of individuals whose parent/s experienced mental illness during your childhood. The study will consider your thoughts and feelings about your experiences of growing up with a parent with mental illness. In addition, the study seeks to consider your experiences of being a parent yourself and your current parenting role/s.

What does the study involve?

If you choose to take part in the study, you will be invited to take part in a semi structured interview with the researcher. You can either meet directly with the researcher (at a University of Western Sydney campus) or undertake a telephone interview / on line discussion. The interview will be held at a mutually agreed time. All verbal interviews (face to face or telephone interviews) will be transcribed into text.

How much time will the study take?

The interview is expected to last approximately one hour of your time plus travel time.

Will the study benefit me?

Some people will find it of benefit to talk about their experiences of being parented by a person with mental illness and their experiences of their own parenting roles. For some, this may be the first opportunity they have been offered to discuss their experiences and narratives. Participants will not be offered payment for their involvement in the study.

Will the study involve any discomfort for me?

There is a possibility that some people may be distressed or feel uncomfortable when discussing their experiences. You may stop the interview at any time and withdraw from the study if you wish. Please be assured that you and your experiences will be treated with respect throughout the interview. All

participants will be provided with a contact list of resources and services they may find of assistance to them if required. Please see the attached list.

How is this study being paid for?

The study is not being sponsored by any agency, other than the support offered to research students by The University of Western Sydney.

Will anyone else know the results? How will the results be disseminated?

All aspects of the study, including individual results, will be confidential and only the researchers will have access to information about participants. Any results / findings included in the final research report will be deidentified so individual participants cannot be identified in any way. Results will be disseminated in a thesis, in peer reviewed journal articles and at conferences.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to be involved and - if you do participate -you can withdraw at any time without giving any reason and without any consequences.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the chief investigator's contact details. They can contact the chief investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

What if I require further information?

When you have read this information, Gill Murphy will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Gill Murphy on 4736 0337 or email: g.murphy@uws.edu.au

What if I have a complaint?

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H8924.

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel 02-4736 0883 Fax 02-4736 0013 or email humanethics@uws.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form.