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**Toward access and equity: Improving assessment of parents with intellectual disability for the
Children's Court of NSW**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT -professionals

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study to explore professional views of influences on parenting capacity assessments with parents with intellectual disability in New South Wales. The study is funded by an Access to Justice Innovation Grant through the NSW Government. You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a professional who conducts assessments used by the Children's Court of NSW.

This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr Susan Collings, Research Fellow, Research Centre for Children and Families, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney.
- Dr Margaret Spencer, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, The University of Sydney.
- Ms Pei Kong, Research Associate, Research Centre for Children and Families, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

You can take part in up to 3 stages:

1. If you are any professional who completes parenting assessments, you can take part in an anonymous survey about your views and experiences of doing capacity assessments of parents with intellectual disability. The survey will be online and will ask for some basic demographic information such as age, location, profession. It will then ask a series of questions and you respond by selecting the number that most closely matches your view. There will be a hypothetical referral involving a parent with an Intellectual disability and you are asked some follow up questions about this referral to gauge the important factors you take into consideration in your work.
2. If you are an independent (private) assessor or an Authorised (Clinic) assessor, you can also take part in a focus group discussion about what makes it harder to assess parents with intellectual disability. This will be held during office on the Zoom videoconference platform. You may prefer to have your camera turned off and to use a pseudonym. Focus groups will be audio recorded and the audio file will be converted to text to create a transcript. It and the 'chat' conversation will be downloaded for analysis.
3. You may also be invited to take part in workshops held at the Children's Court Clinic during work hours. If you are invited, we will show you a prototype of the assessment resource we develop and ask for your feedback. If you agree, we will also ask you to try using the approach outlined in the resource in your work for a month. We will bring the group back together 1-2 more times to capture learning and recommended changes. These sessions will be audio recorded but you will not be individually identifiable.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

The survey will take about 25 minutes and the focus group will take about 2 hours. If you are also invited to the workshops, they will be about 1.5 hours each. There will be 2-3 workshops.

(5) Who can take part in the study?

You can take part in the study if you are a Children's Court Clinician, Independent Assessor or private assessors who provides parenting capacity assessments for the Children's Court of New South Wales

(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Submitting your responses to the survey questions is taken as informed consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted them. Once you have submitted it, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous.

If you take part in a focus group, you are free to stop participating at any stage or to refuse to answer any of the questions. If you decide to withdraw from the study, we will not collect any more information from you. Any information that we have already collected may be included in the study results.

Workshop participants will be able to withdraw at any time before and between each workshop. If you do decide to withdraw, we will not be able to disaggregate your input up to that point and it may appear in reporting of results. However, you will not be individually identifiable.

(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

You will learn about different approaches to working with parents with intellectual disability which may be of benefit to your future work.

If you are an independent contractor, you will be reimbursed for your time. You can claim \$100 for the focus group and \$100 for workshops by submitting an invoice to the Clinic. If you are employed by the Clinic, this will happen during your paid work hours and no reimbursement will be included. No reimbursement is available for completion of a survey.

(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

Your information will be stored securely, and your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

We will keep the information we collect for this study, and we may use it in future projects. By providing your consent you are allowing us to use your information in future projects. We don't know at this stage what these other projects will involve. We will seek ethical approval before using the information in these future projects.

(10) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(11) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information, Dr Susan Collings will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have on 0448294037. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact the Research Centre for Children and Families at rccf.research@sydney.edu.au.

(12) Will I be told the results of the study?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. If you take part in an interview or focus group, we will ask you to provide contact details so we can send you a summary of the results. We will also send a summary of the poll results to all webinar attendees at the email address used to register. This means you will receive feedback without compromising your anonymity. We will also provide study results on the Research Centre for Children and Families website and give the website address to all webinar attendees at the point of registration.

(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [2021/590]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep