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Cultural Influences on Parental Perspectives of Learning Support

Dear Parent

You are invited to participate in a research project investigating parental perceptions and views of providing special education services and learning support in secondary schools in Sydney, Australia, and Taipei, Taiwan. Attached to this letter of invitation is a Participant Information Statement that will inform you about the research project. We ask that you read this statement carefully, and if you have further questions please contact the people listed within the statement.

After reading the Participant Information Statement, had any questions about the study answered, and would like to be part of this study, please contact Yogisha Sewani (ysew0888@uni.sydney.edu.au). She will organise the next step in this process.

We thank you for considering this invitation.

Yours sincerely

Yogisha Sewani
David Evans PhD

Participant Information Statement : Parents



Research Study: Cultural Influences on Parental Perspectives of Learning Support

Dr David Evans PhD

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Ms Yogisha Sewani | Email: ysew0888@uni.sydney.edu.au

1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study about how we support all students in our schools. We are wanting to know the perceptions and views of parents who are resident in Australia and Taiwan towards secondary students receiving support with their learning through special education or learning support services. Knowing more about parental views from differing cultures is an important part of developing inclusive education practices and processes in our schools. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

2. Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- David Evans, Professor of Special and Inclusive Education, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney.
- Ms Yogisha Sewani, postgraduate student, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney.

Ms Yogisha Sewani is conducting this study as the basis for the degree of Master of Education (Special and Inclusive Education) at The University of Sydney.

3. Who can take part in the study?

We are seeking to involve parents resident in Sydney, Australia, and Taipei, Taiwan with a child/ren enrolled in secondary school. We are inviting parents from one school in each city. Your child may be receiving, or may not be receiving, special education services within the school.

4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, return the attached Participant Consent Form to David Evans (david.evans@sydney.edu.au). In agreeing to participate in this study, you will be asked to participate in an interview with Ms Sewani. As this study is being

conducted in Australia and Taiwan, and due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, we will conduct all interviews via Zoom. We believe that the interview will take approximately 30 minutes, and will be schedule at a time convenient for you.

The interview will be conversational in nature. We will ask questions about your views of providing special education services for students at your child's school, the benefits, and possible limitations of such services.

We will audio-record the interview via Zoom, and transcribe the interviews to study all responses. If you would like to review the transcript for your interview, you should tick the box on the Participant Consent Form. We will be in contact soon after the interview to share the transcript of your interview.

5. Can I withdraw once I've started?

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

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

We do not anticipate your decision will affect your relationship with your child's school. Will not inform your child's school of any details about who does and does not participate in the interviews.

If you take part in an interview you may refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind you can withdraw by emailing Dr Evans [david.evans@sydney.edu.au]. This is your right, and there are no consequences because of your decision.

If you choose to withdraw, we will not collect any more information from you. Please let us know at the time you withdraw what you would like us to do with information we have collected up to that point.

6. Are there any risks or costs?

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.

If you experience discomfort from the interview, please talk with the interviewer. You may wish to seek professional support, and this can be found at:

- NSW Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511
- Lifeline – 131 114
- Your general practitioner

7. Are there any benefits?

You will not receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information about you for the purposes of this study.

Any information you provide us will be stored securely and we will only disclose it with your permission, unless we are required by law to release information. We are planning for the study findings to be published.

You will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

The interviews for this study will be audio recorded through the Zoom platform. These recordings will be stored on the student researcher personal computer (encrypted, password protected), and removed at the conclusion of the study. Recordings will also be securely stored on the data management system at the University of Sydney. These recordings will be erased approximately five years after the conclusion of the study.

9. 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 wish feedback, you should tick the box on the Participant Consent Form. This feedback will be in the form of a brief lay summary.

10. What if I would like further information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher/s will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Sydney: David Evans, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney; Email: david.evans@sydney.edu.au
- Taipei: Dr. Kunal Nepali, Taiwan Medical Centre; Email: nepali@tmu.edu.tw

11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [HREC Approval No.: 2021/702] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

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:

Sydney

Human Ethics Manager
human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
+61 2 8627 8176

Taipei

Dr. Kunal Nepali
Taiwan Medical University
Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
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This information sheet is for you to keep