

## **Information Sheet and Consent Form**

### **The Ngala Family Happiness Study**

Dear Participant,

We invite you to participate in this study on your perception of happiness.

#### **Purpose of the evaluation**

The purpose of this study is to collect data to investigate how Western Australian families perceive family happiness and understand their subjective wellbeing. This study will inform the practical steps that can be taken to improve the perception of 'happiness', to inform the development of future Ngala services, and inform continuous improvement of current services.

If you consent to take part in this study, it is important that you understand the purpose of the study and what you will be asked to do. Please make sure that you ask any questions you may have, and that all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before you agree to participate.

#### **What is involved?**

All Western Australian families with at least one child under the age of 18 years are eligible to participate. The person who completes the survey must be over 18 years of age. If you decide to participate you will be asked to complete an online survey. You will be asked to provide non-identifiable information about you and your family, some multiple-choice questions, and some open-ended questions. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

#### **Voluntary participation and withdrawal from the study**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw at any time without discrimination or prejudice. Your participation or withdrawal will not affect any services you receive from Ngala or from any other organisation in WA.

#### **Privacy and data storage**

By ticking the box at the beginning of the survey and completing the survey, you consent to participating in the study. The data collected in the survey will not include any information about the participants that would make the data identifiable. Any information collected that has the potential to identify any participants will be de-identified. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this study.

All data collected will be kept in accordance with ECU's Data Management Policy. All data will be stored electronically on a secure intranet location at ECU that only the researchers of this study can access. The data will be de-identified when stored, retained for a period of seven years and destroyed at the end of the retention period under the State Records Act.

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified. You can request a summary of the final report and any published material after the research has been completed by contacting

[marketing@ngala.com.au](mailto:marketing@ngala.com.au)

## Benefits of the study

There may be no direct benefit to you from participation. However, sometimes people appreciate the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences. Some potential benefits to children, families and communities in WA include:

- Assisting with the development of services and improvement of current services to ensure they are responsive, evidence-informed and meet the needs of WA families.
- Raising awareness of Ngala so families know where and how to access Ngala's services and programs.
- Identifying Ngala as an organisation that is contemporary, accessible and relevant to their needs, and as a credible source of information on parenting and child development services in WA.

The research will also contribute to the parenting and child development evidence base at Ngala and the broader child development and family services sector in WA.

## Possible risks

We anticipate that the risks of participating are low. While we don't consider the questions confronting or sensitive, everyone responds in a different way. If you become upset or worried as a result of your participation in the study, please seek the advice of your GP or relevant health professional. We can also arrange for you to receive support in your local community if required. For information relating to the University's research participant insurance coverage, please go to: <https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/staff/centres/strategic-and-governance-services/our-services/risk-and-assurance/insurance/practicum-work-experience-or-volunteer-activities>

With the exception of demographic questions, all questions are voluntary. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. You are free to withdraw at any time during the survey.

This study is a partnership between Ngala and Edith Cowan University. If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to discuss with you any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your assistance with this study,

Yours sincerely,

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This study has been approved by the Edith Cowan University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval 2021-02563). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Edith Cowan University's Research Ethics Office (Tel. 08 6304 2170 or e-mail [research.ethics@ecu.edu.au](mailto:research.ethics@ecu.edu.au)). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.