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CRICOS Provider No. 00114A

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## Letter of Introduction

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**Title:** Transition to and first year of university for students on the autism spectrum.

This letter is to introduce Alison Nuske who is a PhD candidate in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Flinders University.

Alison is undertaking research leading to the production of a thesis or other publications on the subject of transition to and first year of university for students on the autism spectrum.

**The purpose** of this research is to help us to better understand the barriers and facilitators to transition to university for individuals on the autism spectrum in Australia.

Alison is seeking participation from individuals on the autism spectrum enrolled in an undergraduate degree at a South Australian university, in order to conduct a case study to explore their experiences of transition to and first year at university. The case study will involve an interview with a student of approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. Where permission is granted by the student, Alison would then also like to conduct an interview with a Disability Advisor and/or academic staff member/s from your university who have been nominated by the student to ask them about their experiences in supporting students on the autism spectrum in their transition to and first year of university, as well as seek an understanding of the university's transition related supports, processes and policies. These interviews would be approximately 1 to 1.5 hours in length.

Be assured that any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and none of the participants will be individually identifiable in the resulting thesis, report or other publications. Participants are, of course, entirely free to discontinue their participation at any time or to decline to answer particular questions.

The attached Information Sheet provides further details regarding this study. **If you agree to assist with recruitment for this study, please forward the attached *email template* to any students on the autism spectrum who are registered with your service.**

A summary of the results will be made available at the completion of the study on the Facebook page: <https://fb.me/AutismTransition2Uni> or you can contact the researchers to ask for a summary of the results.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project Number: 8242). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email [human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au](mailto:human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au)

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this project, please direct them to Dr Fiona Rillotta by email: or phone: 08 8201 2108 or e-mail [fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au](mailto:fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au).

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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