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You are invited to participate in the research project identified above, which is being conducted by me, Dr Jill Duncan, from the School of Education at the University of Newcastle and Dr Renee Punch, from the Faculty of Health at Southern Cross University.

This research is funded by the J&K Wonderland Foundation.

### **Why is the research being done?**

Social capital is the benefits derived from networks of relationships between people and groups of people. There are many documented benefits of social capital. Social capital has a potential buffering effect against negative outcomes for young people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This research will be conducted in two stages through interviews. Stage one of the research aims to investigate how high-achieving young adults who are deaf develop social capital. Stage two of the research aims to create intervention strategies that may assist practitioners in targeting the development of social capital with adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### **Who can participate in the research?**

We are seeking 15 young adults, who are deaf or hard of hearing, have a bilateral moderate to profound hearing loss, use spoken English to communicate, are aged 18-23 years and attending university in Australia to participate in this research. If more than 15 young adults choose to participate, researchers will randomly select 15 people.

### **What would you be asked to do?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide basic demographic information, such as age, gender, and level of hearing loss. You will then participate in two semi-structured interviews approximately four to six months apart by either Dr Duncan or Dr Punch via the online platform Zoom. Both interviews will have real-time captioning. The first interview will include questions about your social capital development. Topics will include supports and networks you had at high school, what or who was helpful to you in deciding what to do after finishing high school, your interests and work experience in high school, and whether you had any role models who had a hearing loss.

In the second interview, you will be provided with feedback about the findings from the first interviews and will be consulted about draft social capital development interventions for adolescents who are deaf or hard of hearing. You will be provided with another Participant Information Statement and Consent Form before taking part in the second interview.

All interviews will be recorded and transcribed by a professional transcription service, which is bound by a confidentiality agreement to protect individual participant privacy. You will have the opportunity to review the transcriptions of your interviews and make changes to them. Both interview recordings will be deleted once interviews have been transcribed and verified.

If you agree to participate, you will be given a unique identifier so that your name will not be used in any aspect of the research, including the interviews and the interview transcripts.

**You will receive a \$75 Mastercard voucher, sent to you via email, after each interview in appreciation of your time in assisting with this research.**

### **What choice do you have?**

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Only those people who give their informed consent will be included in the project. Whether or not you decide to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you.

If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason and have the option of withdrawing your data up until after all second interviews are conducted.

### **How much time will it take?**

Each of the two interviews will take approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

### **What are the risks and benefits of participating?**

There are no anticipated risks of this research. However, sometimes when discussing networks of relationships, memories can cause distress. If this is the case for you, we encourage you to text Lifeline on this number 0477 13 11 14 or ring Beyond Blue on this number 1300 22 4636 for support.

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

Data will be retained securely for a minimum period of five years from completion of the research and managed/stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (see <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy provisions (as amended from time to time).

Access to identifiable data will be restricted to Dr Duncan and Dr Punch, unless: you have consented otherwise; or disclosure is required by law for us to comply with our regulatory obligations.

### **How will the information collected be used?**

Data will be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and will be presented at Australian and international conferences. Individual participants will not be identified in any aspect of data reporting. Non-identifiable data may also be shared with other parties to encourage scientific scrutiny, and to contribute to further research and public knowledge.

You will be provided with a summary of the study's findings via email after the first interview and at the completion of the study.

### **What do you need to do to participate?**

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, contact Dr Duncan at this email address: [jill.duncan@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:jill.duncan@newcastle.edu.au) or this phone number: 02 4921 6282.

If you would like to participate, please click this link, which will take you to a consent form and request your contact details.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information, please contact Dr Jill Duncan, Chief Investigator and Project Supervisor.

### **Complaints about this research**

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No.H-2021-0024.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about how the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research & Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email [Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au).

Please scan this SurveyMonkey QR code for the Participant Information Statement and the consent form.



Thank you for considering this invitation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr Jill Duncan