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JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

TOWNSVILLE Queensland 4811 Australia Telephone: (07) 4781 4111

PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S INFORMED CONSENT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS OLD

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR *Marilyn Anderson*
PROJECT TITLE: *Mothers of the future: assessing the effects of national messages that promote having children on young women in Far North Queensland*

SCHOOL *JCU School of Arts and Social Sciences*
CONTACT DETAILS *Marilyn Anderson 07 40390272 0408847687*

The Australian Federal Government is promoting having more children for Australia to address the country's below replacement fertility level. Former Treasurer Peter Costello's now famous words of encouragement - 'Have one for mum, one for dad and one for the country' - do filter through our culture and do reach young ears, vulnerable ears that are probably not yet ready for that sort of encouragement.

Shifts in society influenced by changes in social policy and financial incentives attract the attention of social scientists who research the impact of societal change on those for whom the policies have been intended and for those unintentionally affected. The ultimate aim of this particular research project is to develop an understanding of young women's responses to such messages emanating from Canberra, using a questionnaire and small group discussion in the presence of an experienced interviewer (Blue Card no. 511072/1).

To do this, I need your informed consent to allow me to discuss with your daughter or the young woman in your charge some of her ideas on what she thinks about the family she may make for herself sometime in the future, or, if she already has a child, how that decision is affecting her life and what helped her to make that decision. Other questions I will be asking in both the questionnaire and the groups are about girls' attitudes towards abortion, adoption and such incentives as the Baby Bonus and how these issues fit in with their moral universe.

These are sensitive subjects and I need your written approval to proceed to talk with your daughter - and many other daughters of many other parents - to help protect very young women from making a decision that may be premature. Participants in this study will be females aged between 12 and 19 years old, some of whom will have had a child. Any potential participant who is (knowingly) pregnant is excluded from this study under a duty of care consideration. As in all research of this nature, transcripts of discussions will be made although identities are removed and remain confidential to the interviewer alone.

The aims of this study have been clearly explained to me and I understand that my consent is required for my daughter or female charge under the age of 18 years old to participate. I know that taking part in this study is voluntary and I am aware that my daughter or female charge can stop taking part in it at any time and may refuse to answer any questions. I understand that any information she gives will be kept strictly confidential and that no names will be used to identify her with this study without your approval.

Kindly tick: I give permission for my daughter/female charge to participate in:

a questionnaire, an audio-taped focus group discussion an audio-taped interview

A \$10 gift voucher will be given to each questionnaire participant, and a \$30 gift voucher for each focus group participant, by the researcher as a thank you gesture for the time taken.

Name: <i>(printed)</i>	
Signature:	Date:



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INFORMED ASSENT FORM: PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR *Marilyn Anderson*
PROJECT TITLE: *Mothers of the future: assessing the effects of national messages that promote having children on young women in Far North Queensland*

SCHOOL *JCU School of Arts and Social Sciences*
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Shifts in society influenced by changes in social policy and financial incentives attract the attention of social scientists who research the impact of societal change on those for whom the policies have been intended and for those unintentionally affected. The ultimate aim of this particular research project is to develop an understanding of young women's responses to such messages emanating from Canberra, using a questionnaire and small group discussion in the presence of an experienced interviewer.

If you are under the age of 18 years old, I need your informed assent along with your parent or guardian's informed consent before you participate in this research. You will be asked to discuss some of your ideas on what you think about the family you may make for yourself sometime in the future, or, if you already have a child, how that decision is affecting your life and what helped you to make that decision. Other questions I will be asking in both the questionnaire and the groups are about your attitudes towards abortion, adoption and such incentives as the Baby Bonus and how these issues fit in with your moral universe.

These are sensitive subjects and I need your written approval before we proceed. Participants in this study will be females aged between 12 and 19 years old, some of whom will have had a child. Any potential participant who is (knowingly) pregnant is excluded from this study under a duty of care consideration and I ask that if this is your situation, you exclude yourself from this study. As in all research of this nature, transcripts of discussions are made although identities are removed and remain confidential to the interviewer alone.

The aims of this study have been clearly explained to me and I understand that my assent is required for me to participate. I am not pregnant to the best of my knowledge. I know that taking part in this study is voluntary and I am aware that I can stop taking part in it at any time and may refuse to answer any questions. I understand that any information I give will be kept strictly confidential and that no names will be used to identify me with this study without my approval.

Kindly tick: I provide my assent to participate in:

a questionnaire, an audio-taped focus group discussion an audio-taped interview
A \$10 gift voucher will be given to each questionnaire participant, and a \$30 gift voucher for each focus group participant, by the researcher as a thank you gesture for the time taken.

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