

## Supporting Quality Engagement with Children Information and consent form – Young people



### **We would like to get your views and ideas on making things better for children and young people. Your voice is important!**

Supporting Quality Engagement with Children is a national consultation project run by the Australian Human Rights Commission. We are seeking your views and ideas on how to make government services and supports better for children and young people going through tough times. These consultations are a real way that you can influence government policy and improve services for all children and young people, especially those most vulnerable.

### **What is the Human Rights Commission?**

The Australian Human Rights Commission is a national organisation that protects and promotes the human rights of everyone in Australia. We have a National Children's Commissioner, named Anne Hollonds. Their job is to protect and promote the rights of all children living in Australia. One way they do this is by talking with children and young people about their thoughts and ideas. There is more information about the Commission at [www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au).

### **Why are we doing this project?**

We want to hear directly from young people. The Australian Government is working to support all children, young people and their families to reach their full potential and keep kids safe. There are Government services and supports focused on helping kids who have experienced tough times like violence within their families, and kids who have been hurt and abused, including physical, sexual and emotional harm. We want to find out whether these services and supports are helping and how they could be improved.

### **How can you participate and what can you expect?**

We will be holding group discussions with children and young people across Australia. They will be about 2 hours long. We will be doing some activities and asking you to complete a survey to find out whether services and supports are meeting the needs of children and, if not, how they can be improved. We will record the discussions and will be taking notes. We may take some photos of the activities. Photos will be taken in such a way that you won't be identifiable.

There will be food and drinks too 😊



### **Is there anything that might make me upset?**

We will be talking about services and supports that help young people, especially in tough times. This includes times when young people have been hurt and abused, including physical, sexual and emotional harm. You won't be asked to talk about any tough times you may have had. What we want to hear are your ideas about what might help children and young people in such situations.

It's possible you may find the discussion uncomfortable or upsetting. If anything does make you feel upset, you can stop taking part **at any time**. Someone from your organisation will be available to talk to if you need it. The Commission can also assist you to contact additional support people as required (e.g. parent, Kids Helpline).

The Australian Human Rights Commission has a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy that talks about what we do to make sure these types of projects are safe for children and young people. You can find it on our website at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/commission-general/child-safety-and-wellbeing-policy-2020>.

### **What happens with the information from this project?**

When we have finished all our group discussions and completed the survey, we will use your ideas in a report to the Government. If we put something you say, write or create in our report, we won't use your name or identify you.

If something is said that makes us worried about the safety of a child, we might decide to make a report to the relevant authority to keep children safe. If that happens, we will talk to you first. Your wellbeing is our priority.

### **Do I have to participate?**

Participation is completely voluntary. Consent can be withdrawn at any time, including during the discussion.

### **Do I get anything for participating?**

Everyone participating in the discussions will get a voucher. You will get this voucher even if you decide to skip some activities or withdraw after the discussion has begun.

If you want to ask us any questions, have concerns about the project, or want to make a complaint you can contact Sophie Charles, Children's Rights Team, on phone number 1300 369 711 or by emailing [kids@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:kids@humanrights.gov.au)



## Support organisations and hotlines

<b>Organisation</b>	1800RESPECT: National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 737 732

<b>Organisation</b>	Beyond Blue: Anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention support service
<b>Telephone</b>	1300 224 636

<b>Organisation</b>	Lifeline: Crisis support and suicide prevention
<b>Telephone</b>	13 11 14

<b>Organisation</b>	Headspace: Supports young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 650 890

<b>Organisation</b>	Kids Helpline: Counselling service for those aged between 5 and 25 years of age
<b>Telephone</b>	1800 55 1800



## Consent Form

*In some cases, young people aged 16 and 17 years will need to provide consent from their parent or guardian, in addition to this consent form. If you are unsure whether you need a parent or guardian to provide consent, please let organisers know.*

1. I have read and I understand the information sheet about the project, and/or someone has communicated it to me in a way I understand.
2. I understand I am being asked to give consent to participate in a group discussion, survey and/or activities as part of the Supporting Quality Engagement Project.
3. I have had an opportunity to ask any questions and I understand the responses.
4. I understand where to go to for support if I feel uncomfortable or upset at any time during or after the discussions. I have let the organisers know if I think I might need additional support.
5. I understand the Australian Human Rights Commission may record group discussions but only people employed by the Australian Human Rights Commission and working on the project will have access to these recordings.
6. I understand that what I write, say or create during the group discussion and/or survey may be used by the Australian Human Rights Commission and/or in a report to the Australian Government but that no identifying information will be included.
7. I understand that if the Commission is worried about my safety, or the safety of someone I talk about, they may decide to share this information (including personal information such as names) with police or child protection authorities to make sure that children and young people are safe.
8. I understand my consent is voluntary and I am free to stop participating at any time.

I have read the above points 1-8 and agree to participate in the Supporting Quality Engagement with Children project:

Yes            No

I agree to photos being taken during the consultations but understand that they will be taken in such a way that I won't be identifiable. These may be used by the Australian Human Rights Commission in published materials. No other identifying information will be used:

Yes            No

### Child/Young Person

Name:	
Age:	
Signature:	
Date:	

