



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**THE WORLD
NEEDS NEW**

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Participant Information Statement for the Research Project:
**Our voices: Investigating post-school aspirations of young Australians with
Autism**

Student Researcher: Kimberley Murray-Dicker
Version 3; date: 20/10/2020

You are invited to participate in the research project identified above which is being conducted by Kimberley Murray-Dicker, PhD candidate in the School of Education at the University of Newcastle, Ourimbah campus. The research is part of Kimberley Murray-Dicker's studies at the University of Newcastle, supervised by Professor Jim Albright and Dr. Linda Campbell.

Why is the research being done?

We are trying to find out more about the opportunities and challenges for young people with Autism, residing in Australia, to get jobs and to keep them.

We are really interested in learning more about young people with Autism's experiences; what their aspirations are for work, what they find helpful (or not so helpful), what support they need and what hopes and concerns they have about the future.

Who can participate in the research?

If you are between 18-30 years of age; have a diagnosis of an Autism; have completed schooling via mainstream schooling; live in Australia and have access to the internet, then you can participate.

Exclusion criteria

If you have a diagnosed intellectual disability, you are not eligible to participate.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

What would you be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to answer questions relating to the research topic through an on-line survey. It will take about 20 minutes to complete the survey. The questions will include ones that ask you if you currently



work, if you don't work we will ask what you would like to work with. We will also ask questions about your future goals and interests, whether or not you have a supportive network of people who may help you with finding a job such as preparing for the interview and coping with anxiety, as well as asking about services that may or may not be helpful for you.

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 in any way.

You may omit or refuse to answer any question without penalty or explanation. You have the right to have any of your questions about the study answered.

Completion and submission of the anonymous survey indicates your implied consent.

You will not be able to withdraw or change your response or log back into the survey once the survey has been submitted.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

As a THANK YOU for completing our online survey, your name will go into a draw to win a \$100 e-voucher. You may also gain the satisfaction from knowing that your experiences will assist in better understanding the personal aspirations of young people with autism, and the support and services required to help meet their goals.

Participation in this study will not involve any physical harm; however, some of the questions can be upsetting (i.e., reflecting on concerns regarding employability and future concerns) and if you find any questions upsetting please talk to people that you trust about how you feel and/or contact telephone counselling services (Lifeline 13 11 14) if need arises. Please, remember you don't have to answer any questions that you are not comfortable answering.

How will your privacy be protected?

Your privacy is important to researchers at the University of Newcastle. Data will be collected via Qualtrics (privacy policy: <https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>). Your name and email address will be known to members of the research team for the purpose of going into the draw for your chance to win a \$100 e-voucher and after the draw your name and address will be deleted and all data will be de-identified. Members of the research team will have access to the information obtained in the survey which will only be used for the specific research purpose.

How will the information collected be used?



The anonymous data will be presented in a thesis to be submitted for Ms. Kimberley Murray-Dicker's Research Higher Degree and also published in peer reviewed journals and presented at scientific conferences. Non-identifiable data may also be shared with other parties to encourage and to contribute to further research and public knowledge.

If you wish, you can email us and ask us to send a summary of the results at the end of the study. However, this may take as long as a few years.

What do you need to do to participate?

After having read this Information Statement, make sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, ask family, friends or other supports that you have or contact primary supervisor at the School of Education, University of Newcastle, University Drive, 2308 Callaghan Email: james.albright@newcastle.edu.au or PH: 02 4921 5901 or the researcher via email - Kimberley.murray@uon.edu.au.

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2019-0310

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which 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 Services, NIER Precinct, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au.