

Quality of Life for Caregivers of a child aged 6-16 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or an Intellectual Disability: A comparative study

My name is Natasha Browne and I am currently completing my Master's Thesis in Psychology. My supervisor on this project is Ian Evans, Professor, Massey University.

My thesis project is aimed at identifying the difference in quality of life for caregivers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or an Intellectual Disability when compared to caregivers of children without these conditions. This study hopes to highlight not only areas that need addressing, but also to highlight the positive aspects of the care-giving role. We are not assuming that quality of life is in any way lessened by having a child with a disability to care for—in fact many families report a whole host of positive outcomes. However we are especially interested in your feelings about the kinds of supports and service you receive. Finding out more about how support services might be improved is one of the goals of this research project.

You are invited to view the online information sheet and questionnaire via the following web link: <http://psych-research.massey.ac.nz/browne/index.htm> or alternatively are invited to call or text message 022 621 0563 and leave a message indicating your name and the address where you wish the information sheet and questionnaire to be posted. Paper copies of the questionnaire will include postage reply envelopes for your convenience. These details will also be listed on various support group web pages and newsletters for easy access.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A, Application 09/49. If you have any concerns about the ethics of this research, please contact Professor Julie Boddy, Chair, Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A telephone 06 350 5799 x 2541, email humanethicsoutha@massey.ac.nz

I would greatly appreciate your participation in this study. Thank you for considering this request.

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