

Whānau experiences and views of the transition process beyond school for young adults who have communication needs

Who am I?

My name is Elena Boikov. I am completing a small research project as part of my Bachelor of Speech and Language Therapy with Honours degree in Massey University's Institute of Education. My project is being supervised by Associate Professor Sally Clendon.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to be part of my research project.

What is this research about?

This project aims to explore whānau experiences and views of the transition process, or the move beyond school, for young adults who have communication needs. Communication needs refers to young adults who have difficulty communicating all of their needs through spoken language alone and who may use a communication system or device, also known as augmentative and alternative communication. Research has shown that the transition beyond school can often be a complex time. Most of this research has been done overseas. We want to find out more about the transition process for whānau in New Zealand including what can be done to make the process more supportive.

Why am I being asked to take part?

I am seeking approval to interview you as one of four participants who meet the following criteria:

- You are a whānau member of a young adult with communication needs who has transitioned from school into an adult service (e.g., community residential homes, day programs, etc) within the last three years.

What benefits will the research bring?

This project will add to research surrounding the transition beyond school for young adults with communication needs. This will give professionals working with these young adults and their whānau more understanding of what whānau go through during the transition process, what practices work well, and what possible changes are needed to improve the process.

What will I be asked to do?

The interview should take about 45 minutes to an hour and will be recorded. I will talk with you about the best time and place for the interview. The interview can be done in person (if you are in Auckland) or online.

If you agree to take part in my research project, can you please complete the attached consent form and send it to me at Elena.Boikov.1@uni.massey.ac.nz.

If you have any concerns about the interview process, you can contact the course coordinator – see contact details below.

What will happen to the information I provide?

The information you provide will be used to answer my research question, as described above. If any transcription is needed, I will do this myself, so that your answers remain confidential. The information you provide will be safely stored on my password protected computer while the project is being completed and will be destroyed once the project is complete. Signed consent forms will be securely stored by the course coordinator.

No names or other identifying details of individuals, centres, organisations, and/or institutions will be used in the project report. My work will be marked by my course lecturers. Findings may also be used in presentations and publications about the research.

What rights do I have?

You do not have to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- Decide not to answer questions;
- Ask to be removed from the study up until your answers are analysed;
- Ask any questions about the study at any time while it is underway;
- Provide information knowing that your name will not be used;
- Ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time during the interview;
- Review the transcript from the interview;
- Be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is finished.

There is a possibility that questions in the interview may cause an emotional response. You have the right to stop the interview at any time. You are welcome to bring a support person to the interview, if needed. We are also able to provide contact numbers for organisations that can offer further support.

Please do not hesitate to contact either me or the course coordinator at any time if you have any questions about the project. Contact details are as follows:

Student Researcher	Course coordinator and topic mentor
Elena Boikov Student Speech and Language Therapy Institute of Education Massey University Elena.Boikov.1@uni.massey.ac.nz	Dr Sally Clendon Associate Professor Speech and Language Therapy Institute of Education Massey University 09 414 0800 ext 43537 s.clendon@massey.ac.nz

Student research projects of this type have been approved by the Massey University Human Ethics Ohu Matatika 3, to be undertaken under Application OM3 23/01. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research, please contact Dr Gerald Harrison, Chair, Massey University Human Ethics Ohu Matatika 3, telephone 06 356 9099 x 83570, email humanethics3@massey.ac.nz.

Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely,



Elena Boikov
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