

HUMAN RESEARCH INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The National statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated 2018) states: “a person’s decision to participate in research is to be voluntary, and based on sufficient information and adequate understanding of both the proposed research and the implications of participation in it.”

To ensure that these requirements are met for children and young people when they participate in research you need to:

- provide information to them in plain language, and
- record their consent, which may be in written or verbal form, or may be implied, for example, through completing a survey or drawing a picture.

Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms

You may need to use Participant Information Sheets and Consent Form in your research project, and will need to include these documents with your Research Ethics Application Form.

Templates for Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms designed for children and young people are available on the [UNDA website](#). These templates may be further customised if necessary.

Working with Children Check (WWCC)

The Working with Children Check is a screening process for assessing or re-assessing people who work with or care for children.

All research involving children and young people will require a current Working with Children Check. Evidence of this must be included with Research Ethics Applications.

The processes relating to WWCCs differ across Australian States and Territories. You will need to meet the requirements of your location. Relevant links are provided on the [UNDA website](#).

For Further information

- Chapter 4.2 of the [National Statement](#)
- [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)

For further information about the conduct of research or the human research ethics approval and review process, please contact:

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University of Notre Dame Australia Human Research Ethics [website](#)