

Social Factors, Belongingness, and Emotional and Behavioural functioning in Adolescents Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Research team contacts

Principal Researcher:	Miss Biyanka Komandur	PhD student
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What is the purpose of the research?

The purpose of this research is to learn more about factors that may ultimately impact emotional and behavioural functioning in adolescents diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), from the perspective of these adolescents and their parent/caregivers.

We wish to invite you to consider taking part in a research project.

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team is looking for adolescents diagnosed with ASD and one of their parents/caregivers. These adolescents must be in grades 7 to 9, have one or more siblings, and an IQ of Low Average or above. All participants will also need to have access to either (1) a phone or (2) a computer with internet. Adolescents who have been diagnosed with intellectual disability unfortunately will not be able to participate due to participation requirements and the scope of this study. Additionally, adolescents who are unaware of their ASD diagnosis will not be able to participate.

What will you ask me to do?

Your participation will involve the completion of an online survey and a follow up phone conversation with the principal researcher (the PhD student). This phone conversation will be related to the questions in your online survey. Your child's participation will also involve the completion of an online survey, however your child will be required to complete their online survey collaboratively with the principal researcher via phone call or online video call. Your child's participation will also involve the researcher asking some questions in an interview style a few times during completion of the online survey. These questions will be related to the questions on the online survey.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

The research team does not believe there are any risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation or your child's participation in this research. However, if any of the questions in the online surveys elicit distress, then the researchers will be more than happy to provide support and referrals to support services as appropriate. It should be noted that if you do agree to participate you can withdraw from participation in the research project without comment or penalty.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

You and your child will be contributing to the important knowledge base on factors that may impact long term emotional and behavioural functioning in adolescents diagnosed with ASD. You and your child will be given the opportunity to discuss your thoughts and feelings with the primary researcher. If any concerns for you or your child's mental health and/or well-being arise during this study, you will be provided with information on where you and/or your child can obtain mental health support outside of this study.

Will I be compensated for my time?

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate, the research team is offering you and your child Westfield gift cards. As your participation involves more than your child's, you will be offered a \$50 Westfield gift card, and your child will be offered at \$20 Westfield gift card.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact the researcher for details of the next step:

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You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 180000383