

## PARENT/CAREGIVER INFORMATION SHEET

Research Project:

### **Neurocognitive functioning in adolescents with a history of sports-related concussion.**

The study is being conducted by Joanne Main (B.Psych (Hons); PGradDipEd, Primary). It will form the basis for a Master of Clinical Neuropsychology Degree under the supervision of Dr Jennifer Batchelor, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Neuropsychology, Macquarie University; and under the co-supervision of Dr Andrew Gardner (B. Psych (Hons); D. Psych (Clinical Neuropsychology)).

The purpose of this study is to examine whether adolescents with a self-reported history of sports-related concussion have a different neurocognitive profile to athletes who play the same or similar contact sports, but have no self-reported history of concussion; and to those who participate in no sport and have no history of head injury or concussion.

We require participants to attend a single 80-minute consultation with the associate investigator to complete a clinical interview and a neuropsychological assessment. The interview will comprise questions about the child's participation in sports (type and duration), and any information pertaining to an incidence of concussion (number of occurrences, duration and symptoms).

The assessment procedure will consist of various tasks which are designed to evaluate cognitive processes such as, attention, concentration, processing speed and memory. Some of the tasks will be undertaken using paper and pencil method, whereas others will utilise a computerised assessment battery. The assessment session should take no longer than one and a half hours. There are no foreseeable disadvantages or risks for participants.

**The assessment battery is a research protocol and is not appropriate or sufficient for clinical purposes, and parents will not be debriefed on their adolescent's assessment results.** However, should any unexpected potentially harmful risks be identified during the course of the assessment process, the parent of the participant will be informed by the researcher, under the supervision of the research supervisors, and advised to seek further investigation by the participant's GP.

Your child's participation in the study is completely voluntary – you are not under any obligation to consent. Your child may withdraw from the study at any time, or you may withdraw your child from the study, at which point all written records of your child's participation will be destroyed.

All aspects of this study, including the results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information about participants. A report of the study may be submitted for publication but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report. When the research is complete, the overall results will be available via email if requested.

When you have read this information, please contact Joanne Main to discuss any further questions you may have. Please discuss the project with your child / adolescent, and if they agree to participate in the project please call **Joanne Main (0421 770 750)** to book an appointment.

If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact:

**Joanne Main** B.Psych (Hons); PGradDipEd (Primary)  
Associate Investigator, Student – Master of Clinical Neuropsychology  
**Phone: 0421 770 750**  
Email: joanne.main@students.mq.edu.au

**Or**

**Dr Jennifer Batchelor, BSc.(Hons), M.Sc. PhD**  
Chief Investigator, Snr. Lecturer Macquarie University  
**Phone: (02) 9850 8012**  
Email: jennifer.batchelor@mq.edu.au

**For free and confidential counselling for parents and teenagers,  
please phone KIDS HELPLINE on 1800 551800.**

This information sheet is for you to keep.

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval No. 5201200027). If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Director, Research Ethics (telephone (02) 9850 7854; email [ethics@mq.edu.au](mailto:ethics@mq.edu.au)). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.