Participant Information and Consent Form (PICF)

PROJECT TITLE: Best Practices for Engaging Parents in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Early Childhood Settings
APPLICATION NUMBER: (2025-4263AP)
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Professor Daryl Higgins
STUDENT RESEARCHER AND DEGREE: Donio Khoshaba – Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

1. What is the project about?
The research project aims to explore the current perspectives surrounding child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention education targeted at parents of children in early childhood, particularly between the ages of 0-5. It aims to do this by speaking to both parents, and providers of early childhood education to understand both perspectives surrounding what education is currently being implemented what education is missing, along with what are the barriers and enablers to both engaging parents and educating parents.

2. Who is undertaking the project?
This project is being conducted by Donio Khoshaba and will form the basis for the degree of Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at the Australian Catholic University under the supervision of Professor Daryl Higgins, Douglas Russell and Associate Professor Megan Willis. The student has a background in psychology and the supervisors have backgrounds in psychology, and academia and several years of experience in research surrounding child sexual abuse.

This research is partially funded by ACU's Faculty of Health Sciences.

3. Who can take part in this study?
Participation in this study is subject to certain eligibility criteria:

You are able to take part if you are a parent of a child that is between the ages of 0-5 that is currently attending early childhood education and care centres (such as childcares), or if you are a professional working as part of the early childhood and care sector that have responsibilities, experience or insight related to CSA prevention education for parents.

As the study is conducted through online video call, you will not be able to take part if you do not have access to a phone or a method of attending the virtual interview.

4. What will I need to do to participate in this study?
If you decide to take part in this research, you will be asked to complete a one-on-one online video or audio interview where you will be asked questions about your thoughts, experiences, and opinions on how parents can be more involved in helping to prevent child sexual abuse during early childhood. The

interview will take place over Microsoft Teams and will take around 30 to 45 minutes. With your consent, the research team would like to audio and video record through Microsoft Teams the interview for transcription purposes. Transcription means we will type up what you have said so we don't miss anything, and so we can analyse the information you have provided. The researchers will transcribe the interview and the recording, and the transcript will be stored on secure protected ACU OneDrive servers. If you do not wish to be recorded, but would like to participate, ask the research team if written notes can be taken.

Your interview transcript will be sent to you for review. The review allows you to add any further information, or to change or remove anything you said during the interview. Please return the transcript within a week. If we do not receive a response from you within this period, your data will be used as-is for the study.

5. Do I have to take part in this research?

There is no obligation to participate in this research and if you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw without consequence and explanation at any stage. Your decision to participate or not, or to take part and withdraw, will in no way affect your relationship with ACU or any parties involved in this research.

Before deciding to take part in this research study, please read the information carefully and feel free to ask questions, or to talk things over with a relative or friend. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a Consent Form at the end of this document and to keep a copy of this form.

6. Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

Whilst there are no foreseeable risks in this research, some of the questions may touch on sensitive issues and could potentially cause discomfort or distress. Please be assured that you will not be asked to share personal experiences or specific instances of abuse. However, given the nature of the topic, some participants may still find certain questions emotionally challenging. As this research is voluntary, if you were to become distressed or upset by any of the questions, you can skip a question, take a break, or request that the interview cease.

If you require support from someone not involved in this research, please contact the free service/s below:

Australian Childhood Foundation (General counselling and support services for child sexual abuse)	1300 381 581
Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service (General counselling and support services for child sexual abuse)	1300 657 380 or email helpline@blueknot.org.au
Survivors & Mates Support Network (Counselling services specifically for males)	(02) 8355 3711

7. Are there any costs or reimbursements involved?
There are no costs to participating in this study beyond your time. However, we will provide a $20 Coles gift card to thank you for your time. This will be provided to you digitally through email following the conclusion of the interview. Your email will be retained solely for the purpose of sending you the gift card and will be kept separately from your data and deleted after the gift card has been sent to you.

***8*. What are the benefits of the research project?**
Although there may be no direct benefits to your involvement in this research, the benefits from this research may help improve how child sexual abuse prevention is taught and supported, especially for parents during early childhood. This might lead to better resources and programs in the future, not just in early childhood education but in homes and communities as well.

9. Can I withdraw from the study?
Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are not under any obligation to participate. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time prior to and during the study, without adverse consequences. You can withdraw by contacting the researchers on the contact details below. You can withdraw any of your data from the project before and during the review of the transcript up until one week following your interview and your data will be deleted from the dataset. After this period, it will have had identifiers removed and combined with other people's data and we cannot take out your specific data.

10. Will anyone else know the results of the project or have access to my information?
Any information or personal details gathered during this study are confidential and will not be shared with third parties without your consent, unless as required by law. The data from this research project will only be accessible to the research team and will be shared and stored on the ACU secure servers (e.g. SharePoint, OneDrive or file servers) for 15 years in a non-identifiable format where your identity will remain unknown.

ACU will manage your personal information and share data in accordance with its Privacy Policy. In limited cases, your data may also be viewable to ACU systems/software staff and administrators to address IT issues.

With *your consent, data may also be used for future research or shared with collaborators or other researchers for the purposes of expanding and building on this research, and made available in a deidentified format, through a research data repository or open access arrangement or could be reassessed by the researchers named on this study for future studies relating to parent-led child sexual abuse prevention education.*

11. Will I be able to find out the results of the project?
It is intended that the results of the study will be published in an Honours thesis and in a peer reviewed journal. All information about you will be published in a way that will not identify you in an aggregated format. If you would like to receive a copy of the results, contact a member of the research team listed

below, or you can tick the box on the Consent Form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

12. Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?
If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact a member/s of the research team below.

Name	Daryl Higgins
Position	Chief Investigator
Telephone	0425795303
Email	daryl.higgins@acu.edu.au
Name	Donio Khoshaba
Position	Student
Telephone	0424541622
Email	donio.khoshaba@myacu.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?
The study has been reviewed by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Australian Catholic University (review number 2025-4263AP). If you have any complaints or concerns about the conduct of the project, you may email the Manager of Research Ethics and Integrity, the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at Resethics.manager@acu.edu.au.

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and reviewed and acted upon, as appropriate.

13. I want to participate, what do I have to do?
Please click on the link below to sign the Consent Form below which will be returned to the researchers listed above.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Daryl Higgins,



Donio Khoshaba



Consent Form – Participant Consent

☐ I have read the Participant Information Sheet, I have had an opportunity to ask questions, and I am satisfied with the answers I have received. I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study, and understand I am free to withdraw at any time during the study, and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the research team members.

☐ I understand that I have a week after participation to withdraw my data, which will then be deleted from the dataset.

☐ I consent to my research data, as described at section 10 of this document, being used for future research, and being shared by the research team and its collaborators. Only data that is specific to the aims of this research, an extension of, or closely related to, will be used. All information will be shared in a format that will not identify me in any way.

☐ I agree for the interview to be audio/video recorded.

If you agree to participate in this research, please click the following link below and fill out the consent form survey.

https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6x0cK1VKZFEGx70