

APPENDIX D
Plain Language Statement

Project Title: **Out of home care for Indigenous Young People**

Main Researcher: **Dr Daryl Higgins**

You are invited to take part in this research project. The purpose of this study is to find out more about the best ways of providing out-of-home care for Indigenous young people. We are inviting three separate groups of people to participate: Indigenous young people (aged up to 16 years), Indigenous young people who have recently left care (aged up to 25 years) as well as Indigenous carers to participate in this research.

Participation in this project will involve answering questions in a group with either other carers or other young people. (If enough other people cannot be arranged in your area, individual interviews will be conducted.) The discussion will focus on a range of factors that influence the type of out-of-home care that is provided, with a focus on what works best for supporting Indigenous young people who are no longer able to live at home. Focus groups with young people will last for between 1 and 1.5 hours; and for carers, between 2 and 2.5 hours.

As a thank you for the time you have contributed, and to recognise expenses in travelling to the venue, you will receive a store voucher (for example, ColesMyer) for at least \$10 (more if you have had greater costs in getting to the group discussion).

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage until completion of the interview, or commencement of the focus group discussion. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect the services you receive or your relationship with the agency/department.

Participants who request a copy will be provided with a brief summary of the project findings.

Your individual responses will not be disclosed to any person outside the research team, and results of the study that will be publicised will not include identifying information.

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (June 1999) produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. This research project has received ethics approval from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the WA Department of Community Development and the Queensland Department of Child Safety.

If you require further information or if you have any problems concerning this project, you can contact the main researcher, Dr Daryl Higgins (03) 9214 7821.

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact the Ethics Committee on (03) 9214 7888.