



1st March 2008

The qualitative experience: living with a sibling with anorexia nervosa

This information sheet is for you to keep.

My name is Samantha Ferguson and I am conducting a research project with Dr Gordon Walker, a Professor in the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology at Monash University. The research project involves conducting a project that will result in the writing of a thesis for possible submission to a scientific journal for publication.

The Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria has allowed me to make the conduct of this study known to their clients and their clients' families, and is supportive of the research being undertaken. No personal details of clients have been provided to me by the Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria. They will not be informed if you and your child consent to him or her participating or not.

The aim of this study is to find out about the experiences of young people who live, or have recently lived with, a sibling who has been diagnosed with anorexia nervosa. Very little research has ever been done in this area, and it is considered important to understand what it is like to live with a sibling that is suffering from this illness.

By consenting to your child participating in this research, you will be helping to build an understanding of the way in which living with a sibling with an eating disorder might affect young people's lives, their relationships within their families, and of what services might help young people who experience this in the future. It will also give your child a chance to talk to someone, outside of their family and friends, about his or her experiences and feelings.

The study involves an informal interview with the researcher. This discussion will take approximately one hour and will be largely semi-structured, so it will be dictated by your child's experiences. The location of this interview will be decided by you and your child, and the researcher.

It is possible that when talking about their feelings and experiences, your child may feel a bit uncomfortable or anxious. This would be entirely normal. If they feel very anxious the interview can be stopped, and information about telephone support lines or support groups that can be made use of will be provided.

Participating in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to your child being involved. If you do consent to your child's participation, you may still withdraw your child from the study at any time.

The information your child provides will remain confidential; the only people who will have access to the data will be Samantha Ferguson and Dr Gordon Walker. Storage of the data collected will adhere to the University regulations. Interview documents and audio tapes will therefore be stored in a locked

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filing cabinet in a locked office at Monash University, and electronic information will be stored on a password protected computer.

The identifying features of the interview transcript will be stripped within 4 months of collection and tapes will be erased. Study data must be kept for a minimum of five years after the conduct of the research, however after this time all information will be disposed of in a confidential manner.

It is possible that data gathered in the study may be used for other purposes. In the unlikely event that this occurs however, yours and your child's permission will first be sought. The data would remain anonymous and not be identifiable.

You and your child will be able to access the interview information held by the researcher at any time. This includes transcripts of the interview, which will be made available to you and your child prior to the analysis of the information. The final thesis may include short extracts of interview transcripts, but these will be reported in such a way as to make them unidentifiable. In these cases pseudonyms will be used to protect confidentiality.

The results of the research findings can be made available to you. Please let Samantha Ferguson know if you would like them to be provided, after November 2008, on the details below.

If you would like to contact the researchers about any aspect of this study, please contact the Chief Investigator or Researcher:	If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research (CF07/4760 – 2007002037) is being conducted, please contact:
Dr Gordon Walker Email: Gordon.Walker@med.monash.edu.au Phone: (03) 9903 2728 Samantha Ferguson Email: slfer4@student.monash.edu Phone: 0402 257 204	Human Ethics Officer Standing Committee on Ethics in Research Involving Humans (SCERH) Building 3e Room 111 Research Office Monash University VIC 3800 Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Fax: +61 3 9905 1420 Email: scerh@adm.monash.edu.au

Thank you,

Samantha Ferguson