

# Caregiver Participant Information Sheet

## Internet Based Survey

**Study title:** Examining Disparities in Dog Related Injuries within New Zealand

**Sponsor:** Starship Foundation

**Locality:** Auckland District Health Board

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**Ethics:** Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 16.07.21 for three years.  
Reference number (AH22562).

### ***INTRODUCTION/ KUPU ARATAKI***

Thank you for taking an interest in participating in our study about dog bites and other dog related injuries.

Our group of researchers are conducting a survey of adult caregivers of children, as part of a wider study to explore the perspectives of caregivers about the significance of dogs in their lives, the potential harm caused to children in private spaces, and the potential impact on their use of public resources.

Your participation would be a valuable contribution to our research, and to the prevention of dog related injuries. Please take your time to think about and decide whether you wish to take part in the project. You are encouraged to discuss your participation in the project with family / whānau.

### **Why we are doing the study**

Dog bites and other injuries relating to dogs (such as fractures or head injuries) are increasing in New Zealand, and more commonly affect children under the age of ten, those in poorer areas, and Māori. We are trying to find out why this is, and what can be done to prevent it. This study is part of a wider project looking into this and aims to find out more about caregivers' perspectives of dogs and the potential harm they cause to children.

### **What your participation will involve**

You will need to be 16 years or older to participate in this survey and be the caregiver of a child under the age of ten.

This survey will take about 15 - 30 minutes to complete. You will be asked to share your experiences of dogs and will be asked some questions to prompt your thoughts and views about this issue. You will be able to edit your responses while completing the survey, but not once you submit your responses. The survey will close on **18 November 2021**.

As an acknowledgement of your participation you can enter the draw for a \$200 Prezzy Card.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary (your choice).

## What will happen at the end of the study?

We are aware that because this is an emotional issue, because of the way people feel about both children and dogs, and because past experiences can be difficult to talk about, that is possible that you may experience psychological distress by bringing up this issue and writing about it.

We also recognise that often when people take part in interviews like this, it can have a very positive effect, as you and your child will be being part of the solution to the problem. It can also be a positive experience to know your views and experiences are being heard and recognised and are going on to help others.

However, if you need support, we advise that you see your GP for support or to discuss counselling options available in your area.

Free help-line services are also available and can be accessed at: <https://mentalhealth.org.nz/helplines>

## Is my information going to be kept private and confidential?

The survey is completely anonymous, and your responses will be kept separate from the information you give to enter the draw.

The use and storage of data will be in line with ACC and Ministry of Health (MoH) requirements, along with the University of Auckland, Starship and Safekids Aotearoa policies. The use of data is also governed in New Zealand by the Health Act 1956, New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000, New Zealand Privacy Act 1993, Public Records Act 2005, DHB General Disposal Authority, Health Information Privacy Code 1994 (HIPC), Health Information Governance Guidelines 2017, and Health Information Security Framework.

## What if I want to withdraw from the study?

Once you have participated in the survey, you are unable to withdraw your answers.

## Whom should I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Principal Investigator (contact details above).

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your rights as a participant in this project you can contact an Independent Health and Disability Advocate. This is a free service provided under the Health & Disability Commissioner:

**Telephone (NZ Wide): 0800 555 050**

**Free Fax (NZ Wide): 0800 2787 7678 (0800 2 SUPPORT)**

**Email: [advocacy@hdc.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@hdc.org.nz)**

If you require Māori cultural support, talk to your whānau in the first instance. Alternatively, you may contact the administrator for He Kamaka Waiora (Māori Health Team) by telephoning 09 486 8324 extension 2324

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at [ahrec@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ahrec@auckland.ac.nz) or at 373 7599 extension 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

## General Information

You may have a friend, or whānau support you to understand the risks or benefits of this study and any other explanation you may require prior to deciding whether to participate or not.

**Thank you, tēnā koe, for making the time to read about, and for considering taking part in this project.**