

Dear participant,

The ORIGINS team is requesting your participation in an ORIGINS sub-project called the **ACE project**, aimed at investigating the effects of maternal adverse childhood experiences (ACE) on the pregnancy, birth and the child.

What is this project about?

The purpose of this study is to find out how negative experiences during a mother's childhood can affect her pregnancy and her child's health and wellbeing. Many people have faced tough times growing up, like being neglected or abused, and these experiences can have long-lasting effects on their health and emotions. By understanding how these negative experiences impact mothers and their babies, the study aims to help doctors and nurses provide better care and support. This can lead to healthier pregnancies and happier, healthier children.

This Participant Information document provides you with essential details about the research study, including its purpose, your role, and the procedures involved. It ensures you understand your rights, the benefits and risks of participation, and how your privacy will be protected.

Who is responsible for this study?

This research is being conducted by a team from The Kids Research Institute Australia, Curtin University, and The University of Notre Dame Australia.

The study is led by **Dr Kristjana Einarsdottir**, an epidemiologist and Senior Research Fellow at The Kids Research Institute Australia and Curtin University, who is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

Supporting Kristjana are Dr Jackie Davis, ORIGINS Co-Director; Professor Desiree Silva, ORIGINS Co-Director; Dr Lisa Gibson, ORIGINS Project Manager; and Professor Rosa Alati, Professor David Lawrence, A/Prof Gizachew Tessema, and A/Prof Sharmani Barnard from Curtin University.

If you need more information or have any concerns, please contact Kristjana.einarsdottir@thekids.org.au.

What will I be expected to do?

- **We are requesting that you answer 10 yes/no questions about your negative childhood experiences and 7 yes/no questions about your positive childhood experiences that will take around 10 minutes to complete.**
- Please note that this is a voluntary activity and you can change your mind at any time without affecting your relationship with ORIGINS, Joondalup Health Campus, The Kids Research Institute Australia and/or the researchers

Consent process

The email you received contains a link to this Participation Information document and the [consent form](#). After you electronically sign the [consent form](#), you will be able to complete the questionnaires online. You will be able to download the information document and consent form after signing.

Signing the [consent form](#) means that you agree to take part in the research study after understanding all the information provided. It shows that you are aware of what the study involves, including any potential benefits and risks, and that you voluntarily choose to participate. By signing the form, you confirm that you have had the opportunity to ask questions and that your participation is based on informed consent.

[Do I have to take part in this research project?](#)

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to and your decision will not affect your participation in ORIGINS, your routine treatment, your relationship with those treating you or your relationship with the Joondalup Health Campus or The Kids Research Institute Australia.

If you change your mind about participating in this study after submitting the questionnaire, you may withdraw your data from participation in the ORIGINS study by emailing origins@thekids.org.au.

[What are the possible benefits and disadvantages of taking part?](#)

Taking part in this study can have both benefits and disadvantages.

Benefits: By participating, you can help researchers understand how bad experiences during a mother's childhood affect her pregnancy and her child's health. This information can lead to better care and support for mothers and their babies in the future. You might also learn more about your own health.

Disadvantages: On the other hand, taking part in the study might take up some of your time and could involve answering personal questions that might be uncomfortable. There might also be some minor risks, like feeling stressed or emotional when talking about past experiences. If you experience feelings of distress or are worried about your emotional wellbeing, you can speak with your GP, visit <https://www.beyondblue.org.au>, or call the beyondblue Free Support Service on 1300 22 4636. Additional support is also available through Lifeline (24/7 crisis support: 13 11 14), the Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 counselling: 1300 659 467), the Mental Health Emergency Response Line (1300 555 788 metro; 1800 676 822 Peel; 1800 552 002 RuralLink), and the Here For You Support Line (mental health and alcohol/drug support, 7 am–10 pm: 1800 437 348). Specialised assistance is available via 1800RESPECT for family, domestic or sexual violence (1800 737 732), Carers WA for support and counselling for carers (1300 227 377), and the Child Protection and Family Support Crisis Care line for urgent matters (9223 1111 metro; 1800 199 008 regional). If you are in immediate danger or require urgent medical help, please call 000.

Overall, participating in the study can contribute to important research that helps improve the health and wellbeing of mothers and children.

How will my privacy be protected?

Where your data is kept: ORIGINS data is kept on secure computer servers in Australia. The Kids Research Institute Australia (previously called the Telethon Kids Institute) has permission to access and use this data. Your data will never be sent overseas. The servers are kept in secure buildings that only a few named staff members can access through secure electronic connections. Staff need an electronic tag to enter these buildings, and rooms are locked when no one is using them. The data for this project will be stored on password-protected computers at The Kids Research Institute Australia and Curtin University RDrive.

How we protect your privacy: The ORIGINS team is committed to keeping your information private and confidential. All team members must sign confidentiality agreements. Before researchers receive your research data for this project, we remove all identifying information. We give you a unique ID number and remove your personal details from your research data. Your name and contact details will be stored separately from your research data. Only specific members of the data management team can access information that identifies you.

How long we keep your data: We will keep your data for up to 25 years after the final publication from this project, unless you ask us to destroy it earlier. You can request a withdrawal form from the research team at any time. If you withdraw, your data and consent form will be placed in a confidential waste bin and securely destroyed (if paper copies) or permanently deleted according to institutional policies (if electronic copies).

Who will see the results of this research?

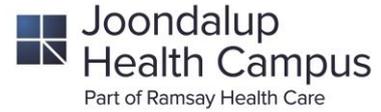
The results from this research will be seen by the research team and may be shared with healthcare professionals who are involved in caring for mothers and their children. Additionally, the findings may be published in scientific journals or presented at conferences to help improve understanding and support for maternal and child health. Your personal information will be kept confidential and only the overall results will be shared.

Where can I get more information about the project?

If you would like to know more about the project, or if you have any concerns which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the following member of the project team:

Name: Kristjana Einarsdottir
Position: Senior Research Fellow
Email: Kristjana.einarsdottir@curtin.edu.au

Ethics approval



Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number HRE2025-0696). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or if you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Curtin University HREC at hrec@curtin.edu.au or on (08) 9266 7093.