

Please consider participating in some practical research on home education and Autism:

My name is Rebecca English, and I am a member of HEN because I'm a home educator and mother of three. My older daughter is suspected to be on the spectrum but, like many home educating parents, I haven't seen the need to get a diagnosis.

As a result of this experience, I'm working with a team of researchers to explore the experiences of home educated young people in the middle years who have a diagnosis, or a suspicion, of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The research is funded by the Autism Cooperative Research Centre. Their work is concerned with helping people with Autism by working with researchers who are producing high quality, collaborative, practical research.

Their interest is across the life span, and beyond education, but this project is specifically looking at young people aged 9-16 who are undertaking education. Our project is looking broadly at that experience, but my role is to help us better understand the needs and experiences of families who have chosen home education.

As part of this research, we are interested in the experiences of children aged 9-16 and how their Autism may have affected their decision to choose home education.

We are looking for parents and children to take part in the study. We are collecting information on why these families decide to home educate and any additional support or resources would be useful to help them experience success when they choose home education.

We hope as many people as possible will be willing to take part in the study. We know there is a lot of experience among the home education population with a diagnosis, or a suspicion, of an ASD. We also know many young people have had experiences in schools that they might like researchers to know about and understand.

If you're interested in the study, and are willing to participate, I've included some links for you to click on so you can do the study.

If you are a student, please click on this link: <https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/193178/8b93/>

If you are a parent, please click on this link: <https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/193452/5419/>

Some more information from the lead researcher is attached below.

We hope you will be willing to take the time to participate in this study for us, it will help all of us better understand the needs of children with an ASD who are home educated.



Participate in an Autism CRC research study looking into Middle Years Behaviour Support

Dear Student,

My name is Beth Saggars, I am an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and a researcher with the national Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). For more information about the Autism CRC visit www.autismcrc.com.au.

This project is being done as part of a university study.

This project is looking at how students feel about school and what they think would help make school more enjoyable.

The team is looking for students aged 9-16 years in home education settings to help out.

Your support is voluntary. This means it is YOUR choice whether you take part in this study. You can choose to stop participating at any time and nothing bad will happen. No one will be upset, including your parents or your teachers.

You will be asked to fill in a survey. This will take about half an hour. Questions will be about what you think of home education and how you feel there. So that you can log in to the survey and leave it and come back to it later if you need to, you will need to create a profile. This profile will not be linked to your survey responses and we won't be able to use it to identify you.

The link to the survey is: <https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/193178/8b93/>

Your parents/ home educators will also be asked to fill in a short questionnaire about how you are going in home education.

If you need more information about the study and on how to participate, please read the attached recruitment flyer.

If you have any further questions, please email mybsp-research@qut.edu.au or contact me by phone 07 3138 9615.

Thank you for your time and help.

Beth Saggars

Associate Professor

School of Early Childhood & Inclusive Education | Faculty of Education | Queensland University of Technology | Email: b.saggars@qut.edu.au | Phone: 07 3138 9615



Participate in an Autism CRC research study looking into Middle Years Behaviour Support

Dear Home Educator,

My name is Beth Saggars, I am an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and a researcher with the national Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). For more information about the Autism CRC visit www.autismcrc.com.au.

I am leading a team of researchers from the Autism CRC who are investigating effective ways of supporting middle years learners (aged 9-16 years) on the autism spectrum (ASD) in rural, remote, Indigenous and alternate settings (including distance education and home education). A focus of Cycle 1 of the project is to capture data from home educators to address the following:

- 1) Why parents whose children have a diagnosis of autism, or suspected diagnosis of autism, in the middle years of schooling decide to choose home education for their children?
- 2) What additional support and resources do home educators perceive is required for education success and how does this influence support in more mainstream inclusive settings?

The data collected in this cycle of the project will help inform more inclusive and supportive approaches to students on the autism spectrum more broadly. It will also inform professional support provided to educational settings through a tele-classroom consultation (TCC) approach in Cycle 2 of the project.

You are invited to participate in this project because you are a caregiver of a middle years' learner (9-16 years) on the autism spectrum being home educated.

Please view the attached flyer for further details on the study and how to participate. Should you wish to participate you can access the survey at this link: <https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/193452/5419/>

Your participation in Cycle 1 of the project will involve completion of an online survey and indicating your interest in completing a possible follow up interview. To allow you to log in and complete the survey over multiple sessions, you will be required to create a profile. This profile will not be linked to your survey responses and we will not be able to use it to identify you.

Please note that this study has been approved by the QUT Human Research Ethics Committee (approval number 1800000949). If you have any questions, please email mybsp-research@qut.edu.au or contact me by phone on 07 3138 9615.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Beth Saggars

Associate Professor

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