# **Call for Expressions of Interest: Stakeholder Reference Group**

## Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project

## About

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI) are inviting Expressions of Interest from service-providers of both health and child and family welfare services, experts by experience, and policy makers who would like to join the Stakeholder Reference Group to support the Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project. This critical project will explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and healthcare access of Victorian children and young people experiencing adversity, as well as identify strategic service system and future research priorities.

## The Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project

The prolonged and wide-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and control measures upon the health and wellbeing of children and young people (and subsequent generations) will disproportionately affect those living with adversity. This cohort of children and young people are known to have higher rates of physical, mental, and developmental health needs compared to the overall population. Ensuring that health needs can be identified and addressed in a timely manner, particularly for those known to Child Protection or in out-of-home care, places demands on both the health sector and the child and family welfare sector.

The goal of this project is therefore to explore the impact of COVID-19 on health needs and the important factors that influence healthcare provision for Victorian children and young people experiencing adversity, as well as to identify strategic service system and future research priorities.

From the outset, this project will include the perspectives of young people with lived experience and other key stakeholders. The Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project will not only generate new understandings, but will also translate this knowledge into prevention, interventions and operational practices to alleviate adverse impacts.

The Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project includes two research based workstreams:

1. a mixed-methods study gathering data and hearing from young people with an out-of-home care experience about the impact of COVID-19 upon their health and healthcare access, and
2. leveraging the [MCRI LifeCourse data](https://lifecourse.melbournechildrens.com/) to explore risk and protective factors for health/healthcare access of children and families living with adversity

Findings from these workstreams will inform the work of the Stakeholder Reference Group, together with the experiences of group members.

## The Stakeholder Reference Group

The Stakeholder Reference Group will include service-providers from both health and child and family welfare services, experts by experience, and policy makers.

Stakeholders will meet approximately bi-monthly to identify research and service development priorities aimed at improving health outcomes for children and young people living with adversity. A wide range of perspectives will be captured through this priority-setting process. The Stakeholder Reference Group provides an exciting opportunity to:

* Work with representatives from various organisations
* Support sustainable implementation in the health and child and family welfare sectors
* Use research evidence and experiences to provide recommendations

A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) will be provided ahead of the launch meeting for discussion and finalisation at the first meeting.

## Expressions of Interest (EOI) Process

Expressions of interest are sought from service-providers of both health and child and family welfare services, experts by experience, and policy makers who are:

* Interested in participating in the Stakeholder Reference Group and its activities;
* Able to attend bi-monthly meetings (this may include a combination of in-person and online meetings);
* Committed to meaningfully including young people with lived experience in projects, events, and policy discussions when planning and undertaking activities;
* Keen to work collaboratively and collectively to identify research and service development priorities aimed at improving health outcomes for children and young people living with adversity; and
* Ready to be an ambassador for the Child Healthcare, Adversity and COVID-19 Project in your organisation.

Interested parties can complete an EOI application to be considered for membership of the Stakeholder Reference Group. Responses to this EOI are due by **5.00pm 26th April 2021**.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome via email by **7th May 2021.**

Should you have any questions please contact Dr Karen McLean at karen.mclean@cfecfw.asn.au

**Thank you for your interest.**

**EOI Application**

Responses to this EOI are due by **26th April 2021.**

Please complete the questions below and send to karen.mclean@cfecfw.asn.au

Applicants will be advised of the outcome via email by 7th May 2021.

Please limit your response to a total maximum of two pages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name**   |   |
| **Email** |  |
| **Organisation**   |   |
| **Role**   |   |
| **Please describe your organisation (or affiliation/experience) and your individual interest in participating in the Stakeholder Reference Group.**       |  |
| **Please describe the programs in your organisation that work with children and young people living with adversity.**   |   |
| **What would you and your organisation be hoping to achieve by participating in the Stakeholder Reference Group?**     |   |
| **Other comments**   |   |



Please nominate your preferences for meeting times below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **AM** | **PM** |
| Tuesday |  |  |
| Wednesday |  |  |
| Thursday |  |  |

Thank you for your interest.