



## Participant Information – Child Farm Safety

### Background and Purpose

Injuries are the leading cause of death and hospitalisation in Australian children aged 1-15 years. Rates of child farm-related injury in rural Australia have remained consistent over the last 20 years, despite efforts to reduce them. This is of concern, particularly as injuries are largely preventable. This study aims to develop an understanding of children's exposure to occupational risk on farms to ultimately assist in reducing injury rates. Therefore, we are asking for the assistance of rural families to participate in this study and help us gain insight into the behaviours, attitudes and lifestyles of children on farms in Victoria.

### Who can participate in this study?

1. Rural Victorian children aged 5 to 14 years (inclusive) who live on a farm or visit a farm regularly (at least twice in the past year)
2. Parents/guardians of rural Victorian children aged 5 to 14 years (inclusive) who live on a farm or visit a farm regularly (at least twice in the past year).

### Who is conducting this research?

This research is being conducted by researchers from the National Centre of Farmer Health, School of Medicine, Deakin University.

### What do my child and I have to do to participate?

#### Survey details:

- This online survey aims to understand common activities and behaviours of parents and children on Victorian farms. It will compare both parent and child responses and farm residents and farm visitors. Survey questions have been developed through a consultation process with a panel of experts in child farm safety/education.
- Participation in this survey is a one-off.

- You can exit and re-enter the survey and your responses will be saved (for up to one month).

There are two surveys to complete:

1. PARENTS/GUADIANS to complete. It will ask questions about you and your child's activities and behaviours around the home and farm. The survey will ask for your email address, this will then send you the link for the child survey. This will allow your child to then complete the survey at a convenient time. PLEASE NOTE: If you have more than one child aged between 5 and 14 years, please answer the questions about your oldest child within the age range.
  2. CHILDREN to complete (aged 5 to 14). It will ask questions about their activities around the home and farm. PLEASE NOTE: The child that you completed the parent survey about should complete the child survey.
- Upon completion of the parent survey, you will be asked for your email address. A personalised link to the child survey will then be emailed to you for your child to complete at a convenient time.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Parental assistance may be required, particularly for younger children (under 10 years) and those who may have trouble comprehending questions. If you are helping your child, please provide your child's responses to the question as much as possible.
- You will be required to provide consent for your child to participate in this survey. This is done by agreeing to the first question of the child survey.

#### Interview details:

- Parents who respond 'yes' to potentially being contacted further may be contacted for a follow-up interview.
- The interview will explore similar themes to the survey.
- Interviews participants will be able to choose between completing interviews over the phone, video call or in-person (if COVID-19 restrictions permit).
- With participant permission, the interview will be audio-recorded.

### **What are the possible benefits of participating?**

You will be providing valuable insight into the experiences of children on farms in rural Victoria, which has not been investigated before. Your responses will assist in the development of injury prevention initiatives that will aim to reduce child injuries in rural areas. Participation in this study may assist you in identifying potential hazards to your child around the home and farm.

### **Are there any risks for my child or I if we agree to participate?**

There are no foreseen risks from participating in the survey as it is focused on daily behaviour around the home and farm. The interview has the potential to bring up some distressing memories. Breaks will be offered if this is the case and participation can cease at any time.

### **Support Services**

If after reading this participant information sheet or sharing your experiences through any stage of this study, you or your child feel distressed, we urge you to contact your GP for support and/or local referral. Additionally, we recognise the challenging circumstances the COVID-19 pandemic has caused for many community members. As such, we would like to highlight that if you, your child, or those close to you are experiencing distress, or are in need of additional support, you are encouraged to contact: Online psychology support services from psychologists trained in farmer health via: <https://farmerhealth.org.au/access-a-psychologist-online>

Children can access support at: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>

### **What happens if I decide to not give permission or withdraw my permission?**

Your decision about whether you do or do not take part, or if you take part and then later withdraw, will not affect your relationship with Deakin University or The National Centre for Farmer Health. Withdrawal can occur up until the end of data analysis, after this point it will not be possible to remove individual data.

### **Will anyone else have access to our responses?**

No, all responses will be confidential and only the direct research team will have access. Your individual responses will not be disclosed to any other individual or party. Before data analysis begins, all identifying information will be removed. No individuals will be identifiable in the presentation of results; all data will be aggregated. Data will be stored at the National Centre for Farmer Health at the Western District Health Service, Hamilton on secure servers and a locked filing room for five years post publication of the study results.

### **Where will the results be published?**

Findings from this study will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals, a Higher Degree by Research thesis and presented at conferences. Results will also be available on the National Centre for Farmer Health website. A summary of some results and emerging themes will be presented to the Victorian Farmers Federation Child Farm Safety Steering Committee.

### **Funding**

Jessie Adams (PhD student) is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship.

### **Contact the team:**

For all general queries about the research, please contact:

Jessie Adams

National Centre for Farmer Health

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To contact other researchers involved in this project:

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### **Complaints**

If you have any complaints about any aspect of this project, the way it is being conducted or any question about your rights as a research participant then you may contact:

The Manager, Research Integrity, Ethics and Biosafety, Deakin University,  
221 Burwood Highway, Burwood, Victoria 3125

Telephone: (03) 9251 7129; Facsimile: 9244 6581; E: [research-ethics@deakin.edu.au](mailto:research-ethics@deakin.edu.au)

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