



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
Department of Education  
Bendigo campus

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La Trobe University Human Research Ethics Committee:  
Arts, Social Sciences & Commerce College Human Ethics Sub-Committee

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**CAMPUSES**

Melbourne (Bundoora)

Albury-Wodonga

**Bendigo**

City (Collins Street)

Franklin Street (CBD)

Mildura

Shepparton

Sydney

## Participant Information Sheet

Project Title: *Reading for Pleasure: Investigating the impact of the 'Imagination Library' in the Bendigo region.*

ASSC HREC No.: E17-103

You are invited to be part of a study that looks at the value of the Imagination Library program to Bendigo families.

The aim of the Imagination Library project in Bendigo is to encourage children and their families to develop a real enjoyment in reading. The Bendigo Business Council supports the Imagination Library project, and United Way is involved with administering and collecting information about the Bendigo chapter of the Imagination Library; but this particular research project overviewed in this Information Sheet is being conducted by La Trobe University.

As a parent or carer or a child or children taking part in the Imagination Library, you will be invited to participate in this research project, conducted by researchers from La Trobe University. This will happen when you are contacted for a brief follow up survey by the Imagination Library / United Way, approx. six months after your child/ren first began with the Imagination Library.

Once you have been asked questions required by the Imagination Library, you will then be asked to answer additional questions to help us in our research; our questions are brief and ask you about the reading habits at your home at different times. As these questions are asked of you while you are contacted for the follow up survey, they will be asked of you when the Imagination Library / United Way contacts you. The mode of data collection (the way that the survey is run) will follow the Imagination Library / United Way's processes and practices.

Before our questions begin, you will be asked whether or not you are aged 18 or over. If the answer to that question is yes, you will next be asked whether or not you consent to participate in these five additional questions. If the answer to that question is also yes, you will be asked these additional questions. We are using what is called 'implied consent': this means that by choosing to consent to participate, we consider you have communicated your consent to participate (we will not have anyone complete a formal Consent Form that requires you to write your name, tick a box giving consent, and sign).

We (the researchers) will not make contact with you directly, do not need to know your or your child/ren's names or any personal information, and these questions are purely voluntary; if you choose not to answer our additional questions, there will be no repercussions for your child/ren's involvement in the Imagination Library.

Upon request, we will provide you with access to research outcomes such as journal articles, conference presentations, or any research thesis inclusion.

When the study is completed, the collected data will be put together and used in general terms, so your individual contribution will not be highlighted, unless it is for some reason extraordinary and even then you will not be identifiable.

If you consent to becoming involved (meaning, if you agree to take part in answering our additional questions), all you need to do is say so when you are asked during your follow up contact. If you do not consent to becoming involved, again, all you need to do is say so when you are asked during your follow up contact. If you begin to answer our additional questions but then change your mind and decide to withdraw your consent, please let your contact person know and any responses you have given to our additional questions will not be saved and will be deleted. If you answer these additional questions then later on change your mind, it will be too difficult to extract and destroy the responses you have given, as everything will be entered and saved post-follow up survey in an electronic server.

There are no forms to fill out for this study; you will give your responses over the phone to someone entering them directly into an electronic survey. There are no Consent Forms and Withdrawal of Consent Forms for this study as you give your consent or withhold your consent by choosing whether or not to answer the questions asked of you. As this research group is not administering these surveys, but are having these additional questions asked when you are already being contacted by the Imagination Library / United Way, this project is collecting its data by following the processes already deemed acceptable and appropriate by those organisations.

If you have any questions about this research project, process or what your participation will entail, please contact the La Trobe University researchers whose names and contact details you find below on this Information Sheet. We encourage you to talk about your participation with family or friends ahead of your Imagination Library / United Way follow up contact so you are fully aware of the questions and reasons why you are being asked them.

Thank you for assisting us in finding out the benefits or not of the Imagination Library program.

Yours truly,

Dr Lauren Johnson, Chief Investigator  
School of Education, La Trobe University