

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: QUEENSLAND CHILD ORAL HEALTH SURVEY 2020/2022
HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: HREC/2020/QCHQ/60462 & 2021/HE000664

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Professor Loc Do

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are asked to participate in the research project described below.

What is the project about?

The **Queensland Child Oral Health Survey (QCOHS) 2020/2022** Project is a state-wide Survey of children's dental health conducted throughout Queensland. Data collected in this survey will be combined with that collected from across Australia as part of the National Child Oral Health Survey. Information from this Survey can be used to provide evidence about regional variations in prevalence of dental disease and describe outcomes from children's dental services.

QCOHS 2020-22 is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by an international research team led by Professor Loc Do at the University of Queensland. The team includes Drs Mark Brown, Ben Stute and Michael Foley of Queensland Health; Professor Pauline Ford, Associate Professor Ratilal Laloo and Dr Diep Ha of University of Queensland; Professors A. John Spencer and Kaye Roberts-Thomson and of University of Adelaide; Professor Helen Whelton of University of Cork, Ireland; and Associate Professor Jonathan Broadbent of University of Otago, New Zealand.

Why am I being asked to participate?

Your child's school has been randomly chosen to take part in the Survey. Within each of the selected schools, a number of children are randomly selected and invited to participate in the Survey. Your child has been selected.

Participation is relevant regardless of whether children usually visit private or public dental services and whether they have made a recent dental visit or not.

What will I be asked to do?

With your consent, a specially trained dental clinician will examine your child at school when the Survey team visits the school. The clinician will look at your child's mouth and teeth to record information on your child's teeth. The sterile instruments used are a mouth mirror and a blunt dental probe. The dental inspection is not painful and does not involve any dental treatment or X-rays.

If you consent for your child to participate you will also be asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire has been prepared by researchers at Population Oral Health Unit, The University of Queensland. You are asked to return the questionnaire in a reply-paid envelope or complete the questionnaire online. Researchers at The University of Queensland will combine the dental inspection results with the questionnaire responses.

You may be contacted by the research team again, if needed, to clarify information or provide additional information, for the purpose of the research.

You and your child are free to decline to participate in this Survey or to withdraw from the Survey at any time.

How much time will the project take?

The questionnaire will take around 20 minutes to complete. You can choose to do it online or on a paper-based form. The dental check-up for your child will take up to 15-20 minutes.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

No risk is expected from participating in this project.

What are the benefits of the research project?

While there may not be direct benefit to you and/or your child from participating in this project, its findings will provide valuable information to understand why some children have dental decay. Such information will be used to inform preventing childhood dental decay.

Can I withdraw from the project?

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time. Withdrawing from the whole or part of the project will not have any impact on you and your child.

What will happen to my information?

The personal information that you provide are accessible only to the principal investigator of this project. Yours and your child's dental health will be de-identified and stored in the secure network of The University of Queensland and accessible only to the named investigators.

We will analyse the collected information to explore possible associations with child dental health. We will publish the findings in relevant scientific journals. The study findings will be reported in combined forms. No information on personal details including residential locality, age and gender will be published that may enable re-identification of a study participant.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

Please contact the Queensland Health team at 07 3328 9297 or via email qcohs@health.qld.gov.au or the University of Queensland's research team at 07 33465287 or email qcohs@uq.edu.au.

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The study has been approved by the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (approval number HREC/2020/QCHQ/60462) and the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Queensland (approval number 2021/HE000664). If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the project, then you should consult the Principal Investigator at 07 3346 5287.

If you wish to speak with an independent person regarding a concern or complaint, the organisations' policy on research involving human participants, or your rights as a participant, please contact the University of Queensland Ethics Coordinator on 07 3365 3924/07 3443 1656; and the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee on: 07 3069 7002.

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

If I want to participate, what do I do?

Please fill out the consent form and questionnaire, sign them, and return them in the envelope provided or complete the questionnaire online following the enclosed instructions. We will then contact you to organise a convenient time to meet for a dental check-up.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mark Brown
Chief Dental Officer
Queensland Health

Professor Loc Do
Principal Investigator
The University of Queensland