EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project: The effects of a relational self-construal on the wellbeing of mothers of preschool children

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

The study aims to gain a better understanding of women’s experience of motherhood. You will be asked to attend a 90 minute session where you will:

- Give your consent to participate in the study by signing a form
- Complete three short written questionnaires
- Participate in a confidential interview with the researcher discussing your experience of motherhood.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been chosen to participate in this research because you are the mother of a preschool aged child living in metropolitan Melbourne.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose to participate in the research you will be asked to sign a consent form before the commencement of the 90 minute session. The researcher will explain the form to you and you may ask questions until you feel satisfied. Once signed the form should be handed to the researcher. You may withdraw from the study at any point.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

This study will give you the opportunity to share your mothering experiences in your own words and to contribute to the discussion of motherhood within the research and wider communities. We may discuss some topics or experiences that you find uncomfortable but not distressing.

Confidentiality

All data collected from your session will be allocated a code to protect your anonymity. Data will be presented anonymously in journal articles, conference papers and a PhD thesis which will be publicly available. Quotes may be used from your interviews to illustrate themes from the data but will be chosen carefully and used in conjunction with a pseudonym to maintain your anonymity.
Storage of data
Paper and electronic data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and password protected folder respectively. Access will be restricted to the researcher and her Primary and Associate Supervisors.

Use of data for other purposes
Data from this research project may be used in future research. Your anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Results
Results of the study will be published in journal articles, conference papers and a final PhD thesis. Copies of results will be available by emailing the researcher.

Complaints
Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Building 3e
Research Office
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you,

Dr. Melissa Petrakis