



## **Research Information Statement**

**Project Title:** Mobile technology, communication between grandparents and adolescent grandchildren separated by distance: mediating emotions and building a meaningful relationship.

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Sonja Pedell **Student Investigator:** Angeline Mayasari

### **Project Summary**

You are invited to participate in a study as a part of PhD project entitled “Mobile technology, communication between grandparents and adolescent grandchildren separated by distance: mediating emotions and building a meaningful relationship.” The separation of families across geographic distance decreases opportunities for face-to-face contact and communication, making it difficult for grandparents and grandchildren to maintain their relationship. This study investigates how digital communication tools might support relationship building between grandparents and teenage grandchildren, especially through the sharing of experiences and expression of emotions.

The aim is to identify issues that block or trigger and support communication between grandparents and teenage grandchildren separated by distance, for example, unsuitable technology, level of technology knowledge or other priorities. By analysing these factors, we hope to generate ideas and strategies to develop a fun and engaging, ageing-friendly solution to supporting grandparent-grandchild communication.

### **What participation will involve**

The study will have three stages of data gathering spanning understanding requirements for the tools, the design phase and an evaluation phase. You may decide to participate in only one or two of these stages. The first stage has been done. Now, you are invited to participate in the second stage of data gathering. We will use a co-creation approach to give you a strong voice in the design of the tool. Data gathering methods will include focus groups (lasting about 3 hours). In the focus group you will be presented with some scenarios, then you will be doing activities and engaged in several discussions regarding future intergenerational communication and related topics.

### **Privacy & Confidentiality**

We do not need to record your name for my research. You will not be identified by your participation. Project data will be stored in a locked cabinet or on a password-protected computer and encrypted password protected cloud servers during the project. Consent forms will be stored separately to ensure no cross-identification.

Any publications that arise from this study might contain some excerpts from the focus group, cultural probes and technology probes. However, no participants will be identified nor published information that can lead to identification of participants.

### **Free Consent/Withdrawal from Participation**

Participation in the research is completely voluntary. You are free to stop your involvement at any time. If you are happy to proceed, We will ask you to sign a Consent Form before participating. By completing the data gathering, you are allowing me to use the information gathered in my studies.

### **Research Output**

This study will contribute to a better understanding of the grandparent-grandchildren communication and help improve the ageing research at Swinburne, or more widely through publication.

**Further Information about the project:**

Any questions regarding the project entitled *study of mobile mediated communication in the exchange of emotion and transmission of role where grandparent and grandchildren are separated by distance* can be directed to Dr Sonja Pedell on 9214 6079 or email: [spedell@swin.edu.au](mailto:spedell@swin.edu.au)

This project has been approved by or on behalf of Swinburne's Human Research Ethics Committee (SUHREC) in line with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this project, you can contact:

Research Ethics Officer, Swinburne Research (H68),  
Swinburne University of Technology, P O Box 218, HAWTHORN VIC 3122.  
Tel (03) 9214 5218 or +61 3 9214 5218 or [resethics@swin.edu.au](mailto:resethics@swin.edu.au)