Project Title: School children traffic safety at school zones

UQ Ethics Approval Number: 2021/HE001701

You are invited to participate in a study exploring attitudes and beliefs of parents of school children towards school children traffic safety at school zones. This participant Information Sheet describes what is involved in the study, and you should read it in full before deciding whether to participate.

What is the Purpose of this research?
This study aims to explore the attitudes and beliefs of parents towards one of these topics: a) speeding, aggression, distracted driving in a school zone; b) schoolchildren abilities to deal with the traffic at the school areas; and c) built environments in the school zone and their current traffic systems. The findings of this focus group discussion will assist the research team in identifying appropriate educational interventions for parent drivers.

Am I eligible?
To be eligible to participate in each focus group topic, you must meet the following criteria:

• Be at least 18 years of age (minimum age of driving in Australia)
• Hold a valid driver’s license (provisional or open)
• Regularly drive a vehicle (3 days per week or more)
• Have a child that attends a school
• Drive your child to schools at least once a week
• Be willing to conduct the Focus group (virtually) via Zoom while your voice is being recorded

If you experience any unanticipated changes in life circumstances that may affect your ability to participate, please notify the research team to discuss your ability to continue the study as soon as possible.

What does the research involve?
After clicking on the relevant focus group link, you will be required to fill out the eligibility survey that will be sent to your email. A research assistant will email you to confirm your eligibility and will ask about your availability for the focus group session. You can click on other focus group links and follow the same procedure for attending the focus group.

Focus group sessions for each of the three topics will be conducted separately via a Zoom meeting. You could attend one or all these three focus group topics. Participation in each focus group discussion topic requires one hour only. Depending on the focus group topic, a research assistant will ask you and other participants some questions about your beliefs and thoughts towards either a) speeding, aggression, distracted driving in school zone; or b) children’s abilities to deal with the current traffic system in the school zone; or c) school zone environments and traffic management systems. During the focus groups, you will discuss your beliefs in response to the open-ended questions relevant to the discussion topic and vote for possible answers to some close-ended questions. In these virtual focus group discussions, you will be invited to private rooms on Zoom to answer the close-ended questions. You will require to use a pseudonym, a private space, and
headphones for the duration of the focus group to maintain your and other participants confidentiality. The research assistant might take notes of your comments and record your voice for further data extraction. The research team will offer a $30 voucher for participating in each focus group topic.

**Source of funding**
Road Safety Innovation Fund has funded this project.

**Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**
If you are eligible for this study, you will be required to sign an online extended consent form to participate in the focus group and allow the researchers to record your voice via Zoom. When you agree to extended consent it means that you agree that your data can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project
- in the same general area of this research.

Participation in this study is voluntary, and you are under no obligation to consent to participate. If you do participate, you may withdraw at any stage of the study. We will remove any identifiable links between your data and your name following your exit from the study, ensuring your data remains nonidentifiable. Upon written request, you may also withdraw your data. Please be aware that this will only be possible while you are in the study. Withdrawal in any way from the focus group will have no adverse effects on your relationship with the researchers or the University of Queensland.

**Expected benefits**
This study will not benefit you directly but will have a broad impact on the general population. This study will raise the general awareness of attitudes and beliefs of others towards speeding, aggression, distracted driving, children's abilities to deal with the traffic at the school areas, current traffic system, and school zone environments. This research will identify the educational needs to improve risky driver behaviour when interacting with schoolchildren or infrastructural changes to improve the traffic systems and built environments in school zones. Furthermore, the findings from this research will also inform future research in schoolchildren traffic safety.

**Risks**
There are some potential risks of inconvenience and discomfort associated with your participation in this study. These include:

- There is a potential risk from discussing your attitudes and beliefs towards the focus group topics. You will be encouraged to participate in discussing your thoughts about the open-ended questions. In addition, you will be invited to vote on some possible answers in a private chat room (via Zoom) rather than explaining your ideas.
- There is a minimal psychological risk that answering questions will elicit uncomfortable thoughts and feelings. If you happen to experience annoying thoughts and emotions about your participation, please consider contacting one of the following services to obtain support: Lifeline Counselling 13 11 14; Beyondblue 1300 22 4636 (24/7 Support and web counselling from 3 p.m. – 12 a.m.).
Confidentiality

Data management
Unless the law requires, all information and data collected will be treated confidentially. The audio files and notes or the Zoom meeting records from the focus group discussions will not be disclosed to any third party and will be treated confidentially. Some questionnaire items may ask you about involvement in risky driving behaviour. Please note that we will not disclose this information to any third parties. During the study, you will be provided with a participant code for the data collected and stored. You will use a pseudonym and remain anonymous during the interview.

UQ has an extensive Cyber Security Strategy and is required to comply with the principles contained in IS18 for effective information security management. In addition, UQ uses the Research Data Manager (RDM) system to ensure research data is managed according to best practices. RDM provides UQ with an integrated data management system covering the entire research data lifecycle. The UQ research team will save the keys to the participant codes and the pseudonyms separately in a password-protected file in UQRDM to which only the study team will have access. The original audio recordings from the focus group discussions, and the de-identified transcriptions of the audio recordings will also be saved in the RDM. All data saved in the RDM will be confidential, with only research team in the institute of social science research (ISSR) accessing the files in the RDM.

Retaining the research data
All identifiable information such as contact information of focus group participants, the key linking your name and participant code or pseudonym will be deleted at the end of the study, ensuring your data remains anonymous and de-identified for analysis and future use. According to University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule, the consent forms will be retained for 15 years after project concluded, but all de-identified data such as the transcribed audio recordings of focus groups, will be retained in UQRDM for 5 years.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

[Link to ethical conduct statement]

Complaints
This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au.

Results and Questions
Thank you for considering participation in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, or you would like to be informed of the aggregate findings of the project upon its completion, please get in touch with the Chief Investigator on the contact details provided below.

Thank you,
Dr Shamsi Shekari (Chief Investigator)
Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) | The University of Queensland
Email: schoolzonestudy@uq.edu.au