WILL THERE BE DIRECT BENEFITS FROM THE STUDY?

It will take years of work to find better answers to schizophrenia. This study will not directly and immediately benefit the participants, but it may ultimately be beneficial to both patients and families. If genes related to schizophrenia can be found, then it may be possible to find better treatments that correct the basic causes of the illness, and identify factors that protect against the illness.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS STUDY?

The project is a combined Australia/United States study. The Australian site is coordinated by Associate Professor Bryan Mowry, Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research, The Park - Centre for Mental Health, Brisbane, Australia. This study has received ethics approval from Hospitals and Ethics Committees around Australia.

Queensland:

A/Prof Bryan Mowry  07 - 3271 8693
Deborah Nertney       07 - 3271 8680
Duncan McLean         07 - 3271 8686
Anna Rybak            07 - 3271 8679
Stacey Allerton       07 - 3271 8663
Jenny Ritchie         07 - 3271 8678
Helen Haydon          07 - 3271 8661
Alex Zerbe            07 - 3271 8681
Jessica Lorenzo       07 - 3271 8709
Michelle Coleman      07 - 3271 8685
Geoff Waghorn         07 - 3271 8673
Lynda Glasgow         07 - 3271 8678
Maria Sutherland      07 - 3271 8677
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Victoria:

Carlyn Muir            03 - 8345 0583
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Or Toll Free: 1800 682 699

Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research
The Park - Centre for Mental Health
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The information you give to us will be treated in the strictest confidence. All your information and your blood sample will be labelled with a number. Your name will not be used. Only the researchers directly involved in the study will know your name.
**Genetic Study of Schizophrenia**

**WHAT IS THE GENETICS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA STUDY?**

This study is being jointly conducted by research teams in Australia and the United States. The aim is to find inherited factors (genes) that play a role in the development of schizophrenia. To do this we need the help of people who have experienced schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and people who have not (controls). This research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (USA).

**WHY IS THE STUDY IMPORTANT?**

This cause of schizophrenia is unknown, but there is clear evidence that genes play a role. Genes are parts of cells. They are a code for the parts of your body and are made up of DNA. Genes come from parents. There are new methods for studying genes. This is one of the first large studies to use these techniques to investigate the causes of schizophrenia. By comparing the DNA from individuals who have schizophrenia with the DNA from individuals who do not, we may be able to identify genes that make a person more likely to develop schizophrenia.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

**Part 1:** We will interview you about your experiences. Interviews can take place at your own convenience. We can come to your home if you prefer, or provide transport to and from the research centre. Most interviews last 1 - 2 hours. We would also like to collect a small blood sample from you and some of your family members. This will allow each person's genetic chemistry to be identified so the role of inheritance in schizophrenia can be studied. The blood sample will only be used for this purpose. We would also like to access your medical records.

**Part 2:** (optional)

We will test memory, attention and concentration using paper and pencil and computer tasks. We can explain the study in more detail and answer your questions by phone or in person.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE?**

The information you give to us will be treated in the strictest confidence. All your information and your blood sample will be labelled with a number. Your name will not be used. Only the researchers directly involved in the study will know your name.