



## The University of Melbourne Research Project:

### Understanding the experiences of young people with disability who behave in ways that make other family members feel frightened or afraid.

#### Research team at the University of Melbourne:

- Dr Georgina Sutherland – Principal Chief Investigator
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#### Project Funder:

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

#### What is this study about?

The aim of this study is to build a better understanding of the experiences of young people with disability and families living with a young person who behaves in ways that make others in the home feel afraid or frightened.

These behaviours can include:

- damaging personal items belonging to family members;

- breaking things around the home such as a window, a door, or putting a hole in the wall;
- shouting, yelling or screaming;
- hitting or punching;
- throwing an object at family members;
- forcing a family member out of the home.

#### Why are we doing this study?

There are lifelong consequences of decisions made about young people with disability who behave in ways that make other family members feel afraid. Yet the lack of a common understanding about how and why these challenges arise can result in responses that may cause further harm for the young person with disability and their family.

This project aims to better understand the experiences of both young people with disability and their families so that we can start to develop pathways for specific and appropriate responses and supports. The research will include the lived experiences communicated by young people with disability, family members (parents, carers and siblings) and from practitioners and other people working within disability and adolescent family violence services.

*We are currently seeking family members and carers to participate in an interview*

#### What will you be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, you will take part in an interview with us to talk about your experiences. The interview will take place online or over the phone and can take up to one hour of your time.

Our researchers are experienced in interviewing participants on difficult and sensitive topics including experiences of disability and trauma. We understand how difficult this subject can be to talk about for family members that care for young people with disability. And we have measures in place to create a safe space for you to share your experiences. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you can stop or pause the interview at any time. If you feel upset and need to talk to someone for support, we can help to connect you with appropriate services such as Lifeline & Beyond Blue for urgent counselling needs.

We will make sure that everyone has the support they need to participate in interviews by providing accessibility support including interpreters.

To thank you for taking part in our study, you will receive a \$40 visa debit card.

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