

Self-advocacy and access to assessment adjustments: Exploring the knowledge and experiences of Queensland high school students with dyslexia.

QUT Ethics Approval Number 7678

Research team

Principal Researcher:	Claire Ting	PhD student
Associate Researcher(s):	Associate Professor Sofia Mavropoulou	Principal Supervisor
	Associate Professor Jill Willis	Associate Supervisor
	School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education	
	Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice	
	Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	

Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is part of a PhD study for Claire Ting. The purpose of this project is to understand what high school assessment is like for students with dyslexia. We want to know how your child's school makes changes to assessment so that they can show what they have learned.

What does participation involve?

Part 1 of the study

Your child's participation will involve an interview through a video conferencing platform (either Zoom, or Microsoft Teams), that will take up to one hour of their time. Your child will need access to the internet, and a working webcam and microphone. The interview will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for your child. The video and audio of the interview will be recorded, and will be deleted after the interviews have been transcribed.

Topics will include questions about:

- What types of assessment your child has experienced
- What changes to assessment your child's school has offered them
- Your child's experiences talking to teachers about what would help them with assessment

Your child's participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. We require consent from your child, and also from one parent/carer. If you do agree for your child to participate you can withdraw them from the research project, or your child can withdraw themselves, without comment or penalty any time during the interview, and up to two weeks after the interview transcript has been sent to your child. After this time, the responses will be deidentified and compiled with other participants' answers, so it may not be possible to remove them from the dataset. Your or your child's decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your or their current or future relationship with QUT.

Your child will be able to review a transcript of their responses after the interview.

Part 2 of the study

Once we have finished interviewing students with dyslexia, we will know what students find helpful or unhelpful in assessment. We will then invite your child to join a focus group with 3-6 students on Zoom (or Teams) to share their ideas about what schools could do to make it easier for students with dyslexia to ask for what they need in assessment. Even if your child completes an interview, it is **optional** to join a focus group.

What are the possible benefits for my child if they take part?

This research project may not benefit your child directly. However, the project is expected to benefit high school students with dyslexia more generally. By hearing about your child's experiences, we want to find out what schools do that is helpful or unhelpful for students with dyslexia. We hope this will encourage schools to listen to students with dyslexia about what they find helpful in assessment.

Your child can request a brief summary of the outcomes of the study by ticking a box on the consent form.

To recognise your child's contribution should they choose to participate, the research team is offering a \$30 Ultimate Students Gift Card for their time spent doing the interview, and an additional \$30 Ultimate Students Gift Card if they participate in a focus group.

What are the possible risks for my child if they take part?

There are some minor risks associated with your child's participation in this research project. These include:

- Possible discomfort from talking about personal experiences, and
- Possible loss of privacy from discussing personal experiences within a focus group.

The risk of discomfort will be managed by making sure there is no pressure to discuss anything that makes your child uncomfortable.

The risk of privacy loss in the focus group will be managed by setting expectations before the group calls commence. Expectations will include that people will not share personal information, will not wear school uniform on camera, and will not share anything discussed in the group with anyone not in the group. We will attempt as far as possible to make sure that nobody in the focus groups attends the same school as each other. However, it is possible that despite these efforts, people in the focus group may recognise each other from elsewhere. In this instance, your child may choose to leave the focus group and if possible, attend another.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should your child wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Your child's school may also have a counsellor or other supports available. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. Your child can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**, which supports callers up to the age of 25.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Before the interviews are transcribed, your child will be asked to choose a pseudonym (fake name). This will be linked to their interview responses by a code that will only be viewed by the research team. The code, plus any other identifying information, will be destroyed once interview transcripts have been completed. Any interview transcript or responses will only be recorded with your child's chosen pseudonym.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect your child or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

As the research project involves a video recording:

- Due to the sensitive nature of the information, the recording will be destroyed after the interview has been transcribed.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.
- It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you or your child provides cannot be traced back to your child in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if your child is quoted directly their identity may be recognised.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a consent form

(https://qsurvey.qut.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_cOdWW9PsgvQpg2) to confirm your agreement for your child to participate. Your child will also need to sign the consent form.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Claire Ting c.ting@hdr.qut.edu.au (07) 3138 3469
Sofia Mavropoulou sofia.mavropoulou@qut.edu.au (07) 3138 3469

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.