

## Aspirations through time:

**The Year 10 transition planning experience of Queensland students on the autism spectrum**

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 190000836**

### Research team



Lara Maia-Pike

Principal Researcher:	Mrs Lara Maia-Pike	PhD candidate
Associate Researchers:	Professor Linda Graham	Principal Supervisor
	Professor Suzanne Carrington	Associate Supervisor

**Faculty of Education**  
**Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

### Why is the study being conducted?



In high school, students are expected to start planning what they will do once they finish school and engage in activities that will help them participate in adult life, such as getting a job and/or going to university or TAFE. This process is called transition planning.



In Queensland, state schools are required to complete the Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan for each student in Year 10. Non-state schools often have a similar transition planning process but may name this process differently. For the purpose of this document, we will refer to transition planning in any school as SET planning.



You are invited to participate in this study because you will be starting the Year 10 SET planning at your school in 2021. This research project is being undertaken as part of a PhD for Lara Maia-Pike.



Before you decide if you want to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and talk about it with others before you make a decision.

### What does participation involve?



We are seeking six (6) students on the autism spectrum (including Asperger's Syndrome) who will be completing Year 10 in 2021 to participate in this study. To be included, you must be enrolled in a regular school in Queensland (not a special school). Your parent/caregiver and a staff member in your school (such as a teacher or guidance officer) will also be asked to take part in the study. We will ask you and your parent/caregiver who is the best person to contact in your school.

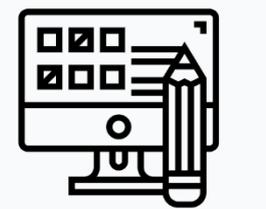


If you agree to participate in this research, you (and your parent/caregiver) will be asked to sign and return the Consent Form at the end of this information sheet.

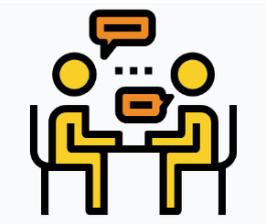
### What will you be asked to do?



1. Participate in activity-oriented interviews. Interviews may take one hour and will be an informal chat where you will produce a visual map, which we call "Map of Aspirations". Like a mind map, this document will visually record your ideas and experiences. You can choose to do this activity together with the researcher (in person or via Zoom) or by yourself at your own time. If you choose to create the document by yourself, we may have some additional questions and might ask you to explain your map. This activity will be available in printed format or through an electronic web-based mind mapping application. You will be able to choose how you want to complete the activity and you can change your mind at any time. We will repeat this activity four times: twice in Year 10 (before and after you complete your SET plan), then once in Year 11 and once in Year 12. We will discuss with you and your family the best place and time to meet.



2. Answer a short online questionnaire (4 or 5 questions) that will be sent to your chosen email address. You will be asked to complete the questionnaire once every school term for the duration of the study, or until you decide you no longer want to be a participant in the study. The online questionnaire will have open-ended questions and the same questions will be repeated each time. There are no wrong or right answers and you may choose to answer each question differently each time depending on how you feel. You will be able to review your responses before submitting the questionnaire.



We will repeat the same activity and questionnaire because transition planning takes a long time and we would like to observe what changes (if any) happen as you progress through high school.

We will be asking questions such as:

- What is your favourite subject at school? Why?
- What types of job would you like to have when you finish school?
- How will you decide what you would like to do after you finish school?



Your decision to participate in this research project, including answering individual questions, is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT or your school. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project anytime during your participation without having to explain why and without penalty.

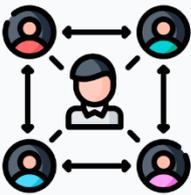
If you do withdraw, at your request, any identifiable information already obtained from you will be destroyed. Please note that if you decide to withdraw, your parent/caregiver and the staff member from your school will also be automatically excluded from the study.



With your consent, activity-oriented interviews will be audio recorded. If the interview is completed via Zoom only the audio (no video) will be recorded. This is to help the researcher focus on the activity and the conversation with you, ensuring a more accurate record of your ideas and experiences. The audio recording then will be transcribed verbatim (typed up word-by-word) to help the researcher review and analyse the data. You will be able to review the transcripts and consider if there is anything you would like to change or remove.

To thank you for your participation, the research team is offering a \$15 gift card for your attendance at each interview.

#### What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?



This study may not offer you any direct benefit but you may benefit from the opportunity to share your experiences. Results from this research may be used to inform guidelines and policy on transition planning that may help other students on the autism spectrum. You will have the opportunity to access research outcomes.

#### What are the possible risks for me if I take part?



There are some risks associated with your participation in this research project. These may include inconvenience, discomfort and apprehension. For some people, the experience of being interviewed may be unfamiliar and uncomfortable. There is the risk of discomfort and apprehension if you choose to discuss events that have been personally distressing.

To reduce inconvenience, you will be able to complete the mapping activity individually if you wish. To reduce discomfort, you can withdraw consent at any time before an interview session, you can choose to have a break during the interview or even leave the interview without comment or penalty. To reduce apprehension, you will have the opportunity to view the interview questions and discuss any concerns you may have before attending the interview. You are not required to reveal distressing events and you can choose what information to provide. Interviews will be informal conversations focused on your educational experiences, career planning and aspirations, and there are no expectations regarding questions that must be answered.



QUT provides limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services (face-to-face only) for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you 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.

Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

### What about privacy and confidentiality?



All your comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law, that is, where reasonably necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to life, health, safety or welfare. Your name, the names of individual persons or institutions are not required in any of the responses. We will use pseudonyms (fictitious names) to de-identify the data and care will be taken to remove any identifiable markers that could possibly identify you, other participants or your school in all publications arising from this research.

Please note:

- You are free to skip any interview questions you do not wish to answer.
- All recordings will be transcribed by Lara Maia-Pike and may be reviewed only by the research team for the purpose of coding.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- Analysis of the data will be performed by the research team.
- You will have the opportunity to review the transcript of the recording and verify your comments and responses before they are included in the research.
- You can stop your participation at any time. However, if you decide to withdraw after data has been de-identified and verified, the anonymised data will continue to be analysed and used.



Any data collected as part of this project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of Research Data Policy, that is, research data will be kept for a minimum of 5 years and consent forms retained for at least 15 years. Physical data (hard-copy documents) will be stored in a locked filing cabinet within a staff secured area at QUT's Kelvin Grove campus. Electronic data will be stored on the QUT server, behind a network firewall, accessible only with password protected credentials, held only by the research team.

### How do I give my consent to participate?



We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm you agree to participate in this study. Once you have signed the form, please either return it by email to [l.maiapike@hdr.qut.edu.au](mailto:l.maiapike@hdr.qut.edu.au) or by using the reply-paid envelope (attached).

Because we may want to use the visual maps you will be creating in reports and publications, we will also ask you to sign an image release consent form. Please note that if the study reaches its maximum number of participants before you decide to consent, it will not be possible for you to become a study participant. If this happens, we will invite you to take part in our Project Advisory Group (PAG). The invitation will provide information about the PAG and what is involved. Meanwhile if you have any questions about the PAG please ask the researcher for more information.

### What if I have questions about the research project?



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

Lara Maia-Pike  
Linda Graham

[l.maiapike@hdr.qut.edu.au](mailto:l.maiapike@hdr.qut.edu.au)  
[linda.graham@qut.edu.au](mailto:linda.graham@qut.edu.au)

07 3138 3738

### 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 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.<sup>1</sup>**



1. Images: Flaticon.com, Getty Images