



Out of School care: What's important to parents?

Information about the survey

Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you of any kind and we thank you for considering our request.

Why is this survey being done?

The Government has identified Out of School care (also called OSCAR services) and care as important in supporting parents to enter and stay employed, and to undertake education and training towards work. Many parents use a combination of family and whanau, friends and services to care for their children when they are not available.

OSCAR services provide care to children 5-13 years of age, before and after school and during school holidays. The Government is undertaking review of these services to look at how they may be improved. As part of the review, the Minister for Social Development and Employment (the Hon Paula Bennett) has asked for a report that tells her what is important to parents when they choose an Out of School service or set up childcare arrangements.

The Families Commission is responsible for providing this report, and part of this involves conducting a survey of the opinion of parents who are currently using OSCAR services.

The OSCAR Foundation is the national body that supports the Out of School services (OSCAR) sector. The Foundation encourages parents to participate in this survey.

Who can participate in this survey?

The Families Commission invites parents who have one or more children between the ages of 5 and 13 years to complete this survey. We are interested in parents who have used before school, after school and school holiday programmes, even if you have only used this type of service on a few occasions in the last 12 months.

What's involved in completing this survey?

If you choose to participate in the survey, you first need to give your name, your home telephone number and when you can be contacted to your OSCAR provider. Your provider will then give these details to a company called Research New Zealand, who has been employed by the Families Commission to conduct the survey on their behalf.

Research New Zealand will then ring you to conduct a short 15-minute interview. No preparation is necessary. All they will ask you for are your opinions and views about what's important when choosing an Out of School service or making care arrangements.

Do you have to complete the survey?

The survey is **voluntary and confidential**. You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any reason or disadvantage to yourself of any kind. However, if the Families Commission's report is to contain accurate information, it is important that as many people complete the survey as possible.

Your time is valuable

We appreciate that completing the survey will take your time, so everyone who completes the survey will go into a draw for one of 10 prizes to the value of \$100 each. These can be redeemed as petrol or supermarket vouchers.

What will happen to the information collected?

Your answers will be strictly confidential. Research New Zealand will group your answers with those of other people, and only pass them on to the Families Commission in the form of statistics.

The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only Research New Zealand will be able to gain access to it. At the end of the research, any personal information will be destroyed immediately. This means that no one, including the researchers, will be able to link any of the information back to you. The rest of the information will be kept in secure storage for five years, after which it will be destroyed.

The results of the research may be published in a report. The report will not name any of the parents who participated and they will not be able to be identified. We will ask you if you want a copy of the results of the research.

Who is Research New Zealand?

Research New Zealand is a private research company based in Wellington. You can find out about them by visiting their website: www.researchnz.com

All researchers at Research New Zealand follow the Code of Practise of the Market Research Society of New Zealand Inc, which can be found at <http://www.mrsnz.org.nz>. This Code is stricter in terms of confidentiality than the Privacy Act (1993).

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the survey, or wish to take part, call Katrina Fryer at Research New Zealand on 0800 500 168 (or 462 6432 if you are in Wellington).

If you want to talk to someone at the Families Commission about this survey, please contact Sue van Daatselaar on 04 931 7095 or by email on Sue.vanDaatselaar@nzfamilies.org.nz.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Families Commission Ethics Committee. Any concerns can be directed to Sharron Cole, Chair Families Commission Ethics Committee on 04 496 1710.

What do I do now?

Please let your OSCAR provider know as soon as possible that you want to take part in the survey. We will contact you after Friday 27 August 2010.