

The Chairperson
 AH&MRC Human Research Ethics Committee
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30 January 2023

Dear AH&MRC HREC Chairperson,

This letter confirms **Barnardos Australia (Barnardos)** support for the project **Missing Girls – from childhood runaways to criminalised women**, which we understand will be submitted to the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) for review.

We have met with **Dr Phillipa Evans and the research team** to discuss the project and are satisfied that the project has been explained to us in detail. Barnardos has had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and discuss any required changes.

We will be involved in the project by **in kind support of \$237,764 comprising of:**

Item	Description	In-kind contribution over 3 year period
Head of Knowledge at 0.1 FTE	Participation as Partner Investigator for the project	\$61,488
Program Manager at 10 hours per month	Monthly meetings at the trial site between Barnardos Program Manager and members of the UNSW research team	\$20,319
Three senior managers at 0.5 days, 4 times per annum	Barnardos executive and senior management representation in a Project Advisory Group throughout the project	\$15,861
Six caseworkers at 1 day per month	Participation in focus groups to assist with participant recruitment, and validation and interpretation of findings	\$105,696
Administrative expenses	Barnardos staff travel costs and office expenses associated with the project	\$34,400

Barnardos Australia

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Chair Janett Milligan

Chief Executive Officer Deirdre Cheers

Contact

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Barnardos is delighted to partner with the University of New South Wales in this current research project, which aligns with the strategic goals and purpose of our organisation. Our deepest commitment is to maintaining an organisational culture of never giving up on children and young people, and to translating our shared wisdom and extensive experience into social care practice which results in improved outcomes for children and families. Barnardos has an extended history of research partnerships with UNSW in the Department of Social Work and has previously partnered with Chief Investigator, Dr BJ Newton. Dr Newton approached Barnardos for this research project, knowing our concern about the lack of empirical knowledge about the relationship between 'missing girls' and later contact with the criminal justice system.

Barnardos is partnering in the project within the parameters of our current Towards 2025 Strategic Directions – *"we rely upon relevant research, evidence and consultation to support how we design and develop projects and programs that are inclusive, fit for purpose and deliver results"*. We know from our direct experience that a collective and collaborative response to research enhances the outcomes for all concerned. This project and the focus on young women aligns with Barnardos commitment to our Safety and Prevention and Out of Home Care services. The findings will provide a learning platform enabling us to more effectively utilise resources, and further tailor our services to increasing effectiveness in supporting high risk young women, thereby lessening their vulnerabilities and increasing positive life outcomes.

Barnardos has extensive experience as an industry partner, together with a proven track record in the application of research findings to solving 'real world' problems and successfully disseminating this knowledge to the social care sector. We have extensively partnered with UNSW previously, including with the researchers for this project. Notably, the proposed trial site was the setting for Chief Investigator Dr BJ Newton's innovative doctoral research, indicating the depth of Dr Newton's networks with the local community. Understanding the trajectory of runaway girls who later 'resurface' through contact with the criminal justice system will enable Barnardos to more successfully identify and engage girls who are at risk of running away, and build on their resilience through early intervention.

We understand that the AH&MRC HREC may be in contact with us to confirm this support and that the researchers must advise us of and negotiate any changes to this research proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deirdre Cheers', written in a cursive style.

Deirdre Cheers
Chief Executive Officer
Barnardos Australia