



Parental Involvement as volunteers in New Zealand Aotearoa Secondary Schools

Information Sheet for UHC Parents

Tēnā koe UHC whānau!

I'm Tania Jones and I will be doing research at UHC during 2023. You will see me around the school, at events and activities. Please come and say hello! I'm looking into the experiences of parents as volunteers at secondary school. The UHC Board and Judith Taylor, Principal, have agreed for me work with UHC as the focus school for my research.

Participation in the research is optional, please let me know if you do not want to be involved. I hope you will agree to take part in this study by sharing your experiences of being involved with UHC in informal conversations during the year or through an interview. Everyone's experience is valuable so I'm keen to talk to as many parents and caregivers as I can.

Who am I?

I am a Mum of a student at UHC, the volunteer mentor and support of the UHC extracurricular Young Enterprise Scheme companies, and I support my son's UHC football and tennis teams. I am originally from Northland and now living in Upper Hutt with my husband and 3 children. I had the privilege to be part of the UHC Board 2019-2022 but chose not to stand for re-election this year so I could undertake PhD research.

I am taking some time out from my usual job to complete my PhD with the School of Management at Victoria University of Wellington. For my thesis I am researching parental involvement as volunteers in New Zealand Secondary schools. Which means I am interested in the experiences of parents being involved, or not, in school as volunteers.

What will I be doing?

I will be involved with school, events and activities throughout 2023, seeing where people are and what they are doing to help UHC or wherever UHC parents are volunteering. Participation in the research is optional, if you do not want to participate, please let me know. When I'm around school I'll be taking lots of notes and talking to lots of people! I will also be inviting some parents to participate in an interview about their experiences of being involved, or not, as volunteers with UHC. If you are willing, I want to hear your story, told by you.

I acknowledge that I know some of you already or we have communicated before. Conflicts of interest are possible because of these interactions, but I hope we can discuss and resolve any issues. I am undertaking the research as a university student, none of the UHC leaders, teachers or Board will have access to the study data.

Why would I like to interview you? And how long will it take?

I will be interviewing parents and caregivers of students enrolled at UHC during 2023. If you agree to take part in an interview, I'd like to talk about how you have experienced becoming involved with the school, and the ways that you have chosen to participate, or not, in school activities, as well as any barriers you've experienced. Everyone's experience is valuable in this research.

An interview will last about one hour, and we can meet at school, at a local café, the public library or at another convenient location (e.g., your home or workplace, or online. With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded and notes will also be made. I may have follow-up questions after our conversation.

What is my aim for this project?

This project will investigate the ways that parents, caregivers and whānau are involved, and get involved, as volunteers or helpers with UHC. You might use different words than me when you think about helping or giving service or being involved in community etc. I'm keen to learn about that too.

I believe the findings from this study will contribute to our understanding of parental involvement as volunteers in secondary schools and how this can be further developed and encouraged.

How will I use and protect your stories if you take part?

The research findings will be used for my PhD thesis and may be published in academic and industry publications and presented to conferences. I'll share a summary of the work with the school community too.

Your identity and the school will be kept confidential. Pseudonyms (made up name) for you and the school will be used in publications from the research. Specific details of school programmes and projects will be kept confidential. Be aware that readers of the final report may recognise comments or ideas as coming from you if you have shared them publicly or have a particular role within the school e.g., volunteer Rugby Coach.

If you agree to take part in an interview, you have some rights as a research participant

You do not have to accept the invitation if you don't want to. If you do decide to participate, you have the right to:

- choose not to answer any question;
- ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time during the interview;
- withdraw from the study before 10 December 2023;
- ask any questions about the study at any time;
- receive a copy of your interview recording and/or a copy of your interview transcript and comment on it
- be able to attend a feedback session about the research findings.
- receive a copy of a summary report

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact me tania.jones@vuw.ac.nz or my Supervisor/s: Professor Karen Smith: karen.smith@vuw.ac.nz Tel: (04) 463 5721, or Professor Jane Bryson: jane.bryson@vuw.ac.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Mrs Tania Jones, MEd, DipTchg (Secondary)

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Human Ethics Committee information - This project has been reviewed and approved by the Victoria University of Wellington, Human Ethics Committee (Approval #0000030755) If you have any issues regarding the ethics of this research, please contact the Victoria University Ethics Convenor: Associate Professor Rhonda Shaw. Email hec@vuw.ac.nz.