



## We would like to invite your child to take part in the ‘Social emotional wellbeing and the arts’ (SEW-Arts) Project.

Researchers at the Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Western Australia (UWA) in collaboration with Edith Cowan University (ECU) are working with Healthway to trial and evaluate an arts-based health promotion framework to promote and enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of young people engaged in the arts in Western Australia (W.A).

By participating in the **SEW-Arts** research project, you will have the opportunity to provide valuable information about the effectiveness of **SEW-Arts** in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the arts community, including teaching artists, arts administrators, parents, and young people, to intentionally promote the social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) of young people through arts programs.

### Who is doing the research?

The **SEW-Arts** project is led by researchers from the Telethon Kids Institute and UWA (Dr Leanne Fried, Dr Robyn Johnston, Dr Jacinta Francis, Sarah Falconer, and Karen Forde), ECU (Dr Julia Morris), and the Art Gallery of Western Australia (Lilly Blue), supported by funding from Healthway.

### What is the project about?

Social-emotional development is intrinsically built into arts education and consequently, naturally promotes positive social-emotional outcomes. However, arts educators can intentionally and consciously foster positive social-emotional development by helping young people take advantage of opportunities to practise social-emotional skills during an arts activity and guiding them toward improved social emotional competencies. After a year-long pilot, a framework called **SEW-Arts** was developed by researchers at the Telethon Kids Institute. This framework helps arts educators intentionally promote SEWB in young people through their programs.

### What does participation involve?

**As a family engaged with one or more arts-based programs administered through arts organisations in Western Australia, your child/ren are invited to be involved in trialing of the SEW-Arts framework.**

- **Your child's arts teacher** will be using a framework that will promote positive SEWB messages through your child's arts session or program. Teaching artists will also keep a journal for the duration of the arts sessions, to notate their reflections of their arts instruction and student responses to their arts instruction. Teaching artists reflections will not be linked to your child and identifying information will not be recorded in the teaching artist reflection journal.
- **If your child is aged 12-18**, they will be asked to complete two short surveys, one before and one after the arts organisation has implemented the framework. The survey will take five minutes to complete and includes questions to gauge awareness of their SEWB and ways to promote it. Survey questions were developed by researchers from The Telethon Kids Institute in collaboration with a psychologist. Survey questions align with the wellbeing focus area/s selected by the arts agency related to 'tuning in', 'feeling', 'connecting', or 'discovering' (themes previously identified by young people as important for their wellbeing). Survey questions measure whether young people are using strategies to promote their own mental health.

## Is participation voluntary?

**Yes, participating in this project is voluntary.**

If your child decides to participate and then later change their mind, your child can withdraw from the study at any time without explanation or consequences by contacting the **SEW-Arts** Chief Investigator (CI): Leanne Fried on [Leanne.Fried@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:Leanne.Fried@telethonkids.org.au). The CI contact details are provided in this document as well as on your child's assent form. If your child decides to participate and then changes their mind during the arts session, the attending teaching artist follows a protocol to ensure their consent and survey data is destroyed (if applicable).

## What are the benefits of participating?

Your child's views are important and will ultimately help the research team promote and enhance the SEWB, and therefore mental health, of young people engaged in the arts in W.A.

## What about privacy?

Your child's participation in this research project and any information provided will be treated in a confidential manner. Once your consent form has been received, and you and your child chose to participate, your child will be provided with a unique identification (ID) number. Data and information that identifies participants will be de-identified or coded as soon as possible. This ensures your name will not be linked to your survey responses. Survey results will not identify your child. At no stage will what they say or do be linked back to your child. Information from this research project will be published in research journals but no names and identifying details will be used in any publication, presentation or report arising out of the research project.

All data will be stored in line with Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority guidelines in a nonidentifiable format, at Telethon Kids Institute and UWA, Nedlands, under lock and key, or in a password protected computer on a secure server. Redcap digital consent forms will be stored on the Telethon Kids Institute server in Nedlands. Data will be retained for a minimum of seven years after publication or research project completion, whichever is later, then destroyed as per statutory requirements. Data collected from participants under 18 years of age will be retained for a minimum of seven years after publication or research project completion, or the participants have reached 25 years of age, whichever is later. You will be able to get a copy of the overall findings at the end of the research project should you wish.

## Are there any risks to participating?

We do not anticipate any foreseeable risk to your child by participating in this study. Most individuals who have participated in similar research projects have enjoyed the experience. If any of the questions your child is asked in the survey cause discomfort, or they do not wish to answer them, they may skip a question or stop participating. Should your child indicate they are experiencing distress or exhibit behaviours suggestive that the survey is distressful or embarrassing, the attending teaching artist informs the CI, who ensures a registered psychologist contacts you.

Young people aged 12-18 are also informed that if participating in the survey has raised any concerns or should they like further information about their SEWB, to talk to someone they can trust, or contact one of the listed organisations (provided to them) for more information. At no time will we be asking your child to divulge personal information. The only circumstances under which we would need to disclose to others, the information shared with us, is if we are required to do so by law. All survey participants will be provided with a list of support agencies should they want to find out more information or need support. All members of the research team have valid Working with Children Checks.



If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study, please contact Dr Leanne Fried the **SEW-Arts** Chief Investigator: T | (08) 6319 1480  
E | [Leanne.Fried@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:Leanne.Fried@telethonkids.org.au)

### Yes, I am interested - how do we participate?

**In order to participate, you need to provide your written consent.**

For your child to take part, you (the parent/carer) and your child need to provide written consent. Please complete the attached consent form. Your child will be asked to complete a participant assent form. This project information letter is for you to keep.

Sincerely,

Dr Leanne Fried,  
**Chief Investigator**  
Telethon Kids Institute

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on 08 6488 3703 or by emailing to [humanethics@uwa.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uwa.edu.au). All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.



## Parent/Carer Consent Form

- I have read and understand the information letter and any questions I had were answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand that participation in the research project is entirely voluntary, and my child can withdraw at any time. I understand my child can still participate in the arts class if they stop being involved in this project.
- I understand participation in the research project would involve my child aged between 12-18 completing two 5-minute-long surveys, one before and one after the completion of the arts activity.
- I have discussed what it means to participate in this research project with my child and I understand that I am giving consent for my child to participate in the research project.
- I understand that all information will be securely stored at Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Western Australia for at least seven years then destroyed as per statutory requirements. Data collected from participants under 18 years will be retained for a minimum of seven years after publication or research project completion, or the subject/s have reached 25 years of age, whichever is later.
- I have been advised as to what data are being collected, the purpose for collecting the data, and what will be done with the data upon completion of the research.
- I understand this research may be presented at conferences or published in peer review journals and that individual participants will not be identified in any reporting of this research.
- I understand participation in the research project involves the teaching artist using a framework that will promote positive SEWB messages through my child's arts session or program
- I understand this study has UWA Human Research Ethics approval.

### Step 1: Complete your details:

Parent/carers name: .....

Your child's name: .....

### Step 2: Please indicate who will be participating in the SEW-Arts project (tick all that apply)

I DO give permission for my child to participate in the SEW-Arts project

I DO NOT give permission for my child to participate in the SEW-Arts project

Parent/carers signature : ..... Date: .....