



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

What is this Review about?

Your child is invited to take part in research the Australian Human Rights Commission (Commission) is doing into the sport of gymnastics in Australia. Research means finding out what people think about things and using the information to help other people.

This research will form part of a review into the sport of gymnastics in Australia (Review). The Review aims to build an understanding of the sport's culture, athlete experience, and barriers to reporting misconduct and abuse, and provide recommendations for the future culture of the sport. The Commission will publish a report setting out the findings of the Review.

Why is the Commission consulting with children?

The Commission wants to ensure that this Review captures the athlete experience across all ages, and as more than 90% of the membership of Gymnastics Australia is under 12 years of age, it is important that children's experiences of gymnastics in Australia are captured and included.

If your child is a current or former member of the gymnastics in Australia community and would like to be involved in Review, they can participate by attending an interview via video or telephone conferencing facilities or providing a submission. For the purposes of this Review, a child is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age.

What does taking part involve?

The Commission will be using interviews and submissions to do its research with children. Because of COVID-19, if your child prefers to attend an interview rather



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

than provide a submission, the Commission will be talking to your child via video or telephone conferencing facilities and will be in contact with you to arrange a suitable time for both you and your child. The Commission expects that any child participant under the age of 18 will be accompanied at the interview by a parent or guardian in a supporting capacity.

For child participants who are 16 or 17 years of age and who would prefer not to have a parent or guardian present during their interview, the Commission is willing to have a prior consultation with that 16 or 17 year old and their parent or guardian to establish that the parent or guardian is comfortable with their 16 or 17 year old providing information to the Review Team in an interview, without a parent or guardian being present. If this applies to you and your 16 or 17 year old child, please contact the Review Team by sending an email to the gymnastics@humanrights.gov.au to arrange that consultation.

All child participants under the age of 18 will require a completed written consent form from their parent/guardian to participate in the Review (below at pages 9-10). The Review Team will also require all child participants to provide verbal consent at the beginning of any interview, and interviews will not proceed until verbal consent is provided by child participants, irrespective of whether a parent or guardian has provided written consent.

An interview will involve two members of the Commission's Review Team asking your child questions via video or telephone conferencing facilities. The Commission anticipates interviews will take approximately 45–60 minutes.

As part of this Review, the Commission may ask your child questions like:

- Do you / did you enjoy gymnastics?
- What does safe look like to you?



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

- Do you / did you feel safe at gymnastics?
- Does / did your gymnastics teacher talk about safety?

Your child can choose which questions to answer. Your child can say no if they don't want to answer a question.

The Commission will record and transcribe your child's interview, so that it has an accurate account of the information that your child shares. The Commission wants to use your child's information to shape the findings and recommendations of this Review, including the final report. The recordings may be transcribed by a third party. The Commission has a Deed of Confidentiality with a transcription service provider and all transcriptions will be kept confidential. Please let the Commission know before the interview if you do not want the interview to be recorded and transcribed.

If your child would prefer to provide a submission to the Review, you can provide an online submission on their behalf. The Commission will need you to sign this consent form whether your child participates in interviews or via submission. Further details for online submissions can be found at humanrights.gov.au/gymnastics.

Who is conducting this Review?

The Review is being conducted by the Commission and will be led by the Review Team and supported by other qualified Commission staff.

How will consent work?

The Commission will require both written and verbal consent for your child to participate in this Review. For written consent, please read the information



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

contained in this document, discuss it with your child, and sign the consent form at pages 9-10 of this document. Once signed, please return the signed consent form to the Review Team.

Following receipt of your signed consent form and prior to your child's participation, the Review Team will speak with you and your child to explain again the purpose of the Review and what a participant's engagement may involve, and to confirm consent verbally with both your child and you. At that stage, it will be essential for your child to willingly provide verbal consent to participate in the Review. The Commission will not engage a child if a parent or guardian provides consent but the child does not.

You can withdraw your and your child's consent at any stage of the Review.

If your child is over 18 years of age and wishes to be involved in the Review, they may complete and return the Consent Form – General.

What will happen to information about my child?

Personal Information

By signing the consent form, you consent to the Commission collecting and using information provided by your child for the purposes of the Review. The Commission will produce a report on the findings of the Review. The Commission may also produce an interim report, training resources and other materials in connection with the Review. The report and materials will be published on the Commission's website under a Creative Commons licence.

Where possible, the Commission will treat your child's name and personal information confidentially. Your child's name and other personal information



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

will not be published in the report, or in any other Commission publication. The information provided by your child may be drawn upon, quoted or referred to in the public report and other resources produced by the Commission in connection with the Review, but will not be attributed to your child.

It is important to be aware that the Commission is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) and documents provided to, or created by, the Commission may have to be disclosed by the Commission in response to a freedom of information request. If the Commission receives a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) there may be relevant exemptions to disclosure (including for material obtained in confidence and personal information).

Wherever possible, the Commission will consult with you about any Freedom of Information Act request before a decision is made about releasing information.

Information (including personal information) collected during the course of the Review will be stored in accordance with the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth), the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986* (Cth).

Further information regarding the personal information handling practices of the Commission is available on the Commission's website, specifically in the [Privacy Policy](#).

Reporting obligations relating to child safety

In certain circumstances, Commission staff and others involved in this Review may be obligated under relevant State and Territory laws, to report to the relevant authorities, an act that involves abuse to a child, or an act that is a



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

‘serious indictable offence’. This is known as ‘mandatory reporting’. Mandatory reporting obligations may also arise in cases of suspected risk of future abuse or harm or incidents of historic child sex abuse. Whether mandatory reporting obligations are triggered in the course of this Review will be assessed on a case by case basis.

If the Commission is not required by law to report an act, it may still make a voluntary report to the relevant authorities, in circumstances where the Commission is concerned that serious harm has occurred, or is occurring, or may occur in the future, in accordance with the Commission’s Child Safety and Wellbeing policy.

Does my child have to be involved?

Participation in this Review is voluntary. If your child does not want to take part, they do not have to.

How and when will my child find out the results of the Review?

The Commission intends to publish a report on the findings of the Review in 2021. This report will be publicly and freely available on the Commission’s website.

How is the Review being funded?

Gymnastics Australia is funding the Commission’s Review of gymnastics in Australia. The Commission is an independent Commonwealth statutory



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

authority, which ensures the integrity of the review and provides the participants with confidence in the process, no matter the source of funding.

What if my child wants to withdraw?

Your child may decide not to participate in the Review at any time. You can withdraw your child from the Review by filling in the Withdrawal Form (below at page 11) and providing that completed form to the Review Team (contact details below). Upon receiving your completed Withdrawal Form, and as long as there are more than two weeks until the finalisation of the report, the Review Team will remove any information provided by your child that is specific to their experience (for example, any unique issues raised by your child and no other participant, or any illustrative quotes that your child provides).

Withdrawal will not affect you or your child's relationship with the Commission, the Review team or Gymnastics Australia.

Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

If you would like any further information or have any questions concerning this Review, please contact either Maria Twomey or Nevo Rom on (02) 9284 9600 or via email at gymnastics@humanrights.gov.au.

If you have any concerns about the ethical considerations of this Review, you can contact the UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator on (02) 9385 6222 or via email at humanethics@unsw.edu.au, or you can raise your concerns with the Review Team.

Support services



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

If at any stage during this Review you or your child becomes distressed or requires additional support from someone not involved in the Review please call:

Organisation	1800RESPECT: National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service
Telephone	1800 737 732

Organisation	Beyond Blue: Anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention support service
Telephone	1300 224 636

Organisation	Lifeline: Crisis support and suicide prevention
Telephone	13 11 14

Organisation	Headspace: Supports young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age
Telephone	1800 650 890

Name/Organisation	Kid's Helpline: Counselling service for those aged between 5 and 25 years of age
Telephone	1800 55 1800



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

Parent / Guardian Consent Form for the Gymnastics in Australia Review

I, _____

(please print full name)

declare that I have legal responsibility for

(please print full name of child)

And that I am legally competent to give consent to their participation in the Commission's Gymnastics in Australia Review (Review). Participation will take place via:

Interview (via conferencing facilities) Submission

In giving my consent, I acknowledge that:

- I am happy for my child to participate in the Commission's Review.
- I have read the included information and understand what is involved.
- I have discussed participation in the Review with my child and they are willing to take part.
- I understand that Commission staff are conducting the interviews.
- I understand that the information collected about my child will be used for purposes relating to this Review only.



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

- I understand that what my child writes, says or creates during the consultation may be referred to, quoted or used by the Commission for the purposes of the Review, but that information will not be attributed to my child. If information or other contributions made by my child are included in public resources developed by the Commission in connection with the Review, these will be published under a Creative Commons license and the contents of the public resources will be able to be used for other purposes.
- I understand that if my child says something during the interview that indicates that they or another child may be at risk of harm, the Commission may report this information to the police or child protection authorities.

Details of Parent/Carer

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

My preferred form of contact is:

**Please send this form to the Review Team at
gymnastics@humanrights.gov.au**



Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form – Parent / Guardian

For all participants under the age of 18 years

Gymnastics in Australia Review

Withdrawal form for the Gymnastics in Australia Review I don't want my child to take part anymore

I am signing this form because I changed my mind about my child's involvement in the Review. I do not want my child to take part anymore and I don't want you to use any information about my child.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A witness is someone who saw you sign this form.

**Please send this form to the Review Team at
gymnastics@humanrights.gov.au**