Would you lock this child up?

An exploration of the detention of children in multiple jurisdictions.

Around the world, children are detained in locked institutions, under mental health, welfare or justice legislation. We are investigating decisions to detain children in these locked institutions. This survey is based on clinical vignettes that are representative of decision-making scenarios.

This document contains two vignettes describing different situations that may result in a child being locked up. Each vignette consists of three short passages, presented in succession, which will provide an increasing amount of information about the child's situation.

After considering each passage you will be asked to respond to questions about the most suitable placement for the child, and the factors influencing your responses, based on the information presented.

If you are willing and able to take part in this study, please read the information sheet on the next page and give your consent before you start the survey.

Responsible Researcher:
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Introduction

The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project. After reading the information you can decide if you would like to take part. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about. Your participation is voluntary.

What is this research about? Our research team is interested in comparing decision-making and practices relating to the management of risk-behaviours by children across various jurisdictions. This will help professionals better support children showing risk behaviours.

What will I be asked to do? You will be asked to take part in a vignette survey. Two vignettes will be presented to you which describe complex scenarios involving risk behaviours by a child. You will be given different information at various stages of the vignette. We ask you to consider your answer carefully based on the information you received prior to the question. We will also ask you a few demographic questions (such as profession, age, gender and jurisdiction). We expect the survey will take 30-45 minutes to complete.

What are the risks and possible benefits? There are minimal risks involved in taking part in this project. We will only present survey data in aggregated form and your individual survey responses will not be identifiable. Benefits to participants may include increased understanding and learning about decision-making and factors that influence on involuntary institutional placement of children. You will not receive any reimbursement for your time, as this project does not have access to research funding.

Do I have to take part? No, its your choice whether to take part or not. You are free to withdraw your consent at any time prior to saving your responses. Please contact us by email or telephone if you wish to withdraw your consent. The research team will be able to exclude your responses if the data analyses has not yet been commenced.

Will I hear about the results of this project? We will present outcomes via conference presentations and in journal articles.

What will happen to information I provide? Handling and storage of data will be in accordance with the University of Melbourne Research Data Management Policy. All data from the project will be stored electronically on a secure encrypted file server at the University of Melbourne. This is only accessible by approved members of the research team. Scanned images of hardcopy documents will be transferred securely to the server and the original documents destroyed. We will protect the confidentiality of your data in a number of ways. Access to data will be password protected and restricted to approved team members only. Data from the project will be anonymised (by assigning a participant number) for storage and subsequent analysis. Analyses for publication will be performed on aggregated data. If we quote any of your responses, we will take extra care to ensure they do not contain information that could be personally identifiable. We will only use your data for the purposes of the research as outlined in this statement. If you wish to access your data you may contact the research team. We will retain information from the project for at least five years after the outcomes from the project have been published. Whenever it becomes no longer necessary to keep data it will be securely deleted.

Who is funding this project? The project has not received any funding.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about this project?
This research project has been approved by the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC approval 2024-28607-52524-3). If you have any concerns or complaints about this research project and you don’t want to discuss this with the research team, you can contact: the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010, Australia, Tel: +61 (03) 8344 2073 or email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints are treated confidentially. Please tell them the name of the research project or the Responsible Researcher.

Where can I get further information? If you would like more information about the project, please contact the following member of the research team:
A/Prof Diana Johns Phone: +61 3 8344 5394Email: diana.johns@unimelb.edu.au

1. I consent to participate in this project, the details of which have been explained to me and I had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. I have read and understood the plain language information statement.

3. I understand that the purpose of this research is to compare decision-making and practices relating to the management of risk-behaviours by children.

4. I understand that any data collected as a result of my participation in this project will be used for research purposes only.

5. The possible risks and benefits of my participation in this project have been explained to my satisfaction.

6. I understand that I will be required to complete an online vignette survey.

7. I understand that my participation is voluntary, that I am free to withdraw at any time and that I can withdraw any unprocessed data that I have provided.

8. I understand that the data from this research will be stored at the University of Melbourne for at least 5 years after publication of the results.

9. I have been informed that the confidentiality of personal information I provide will be safeguarded; my data will be password protected and accessible only by the named researchers.

10. I understand that after I sign and return this consent form, as part of the information held in relation to the project.

SIGN HERE

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