



Feeling, Wanting, Having: The meaning of children to Australian heterosexual couples

Dear Participant,

We are nearly at the end of the second year of our intending parents study, which focuses on heterosexual couples' desires and experiences in relation to having a first child. As you will know, the research involves tracking ten South Australian heterosexual couples from before conception, through pregnancy, and after the birth of a child.

So far we have undertaken many interviews with our participants:

- *First round* (prior to pregnancy) Feb-June 2015 (10 couples)
- *Second round* (6 months pregnant) Aug 2015-ongoing (5 couples so far)
- *Third round* (baby 6 months old) May 2016-ongoing (4 couples so far)
- *Fourth round* (baby 18 months old) May 2017 (anticipated)

By beginning the study prior to pregnancy, we have been able to explore what for some people have been journeys through uncertainty in regards to the time it takes to become pregnant. We had not anticipated how many of you would potentially be impacted by fertility issues, and we thank you for remaining connected to the study during these difficult experiences.

We have also interviewed ten parents of our participants (six mothers and four fathers) to explore similarities and differences between generations and within the same families. We are still very interested to interview any additional parents as well as grandparents, so please do let us know if anyone in your family would be willing to speak with us.

In order to share some of the preliminary findings from each stage of the study, on the following pages we have included some word clouds generated from key words in the interview transcriptions, and provide a brief summary of our thoughts about these.

You can continue to keep up-to-date with the study and view publications via the website <http://www.australianparentingstudy.com/> and twitter @ausfamilies

Thanks to all of you for your continued involvement and interest in the study. You are welcome to share this update with other family members and friends.

Sincerely,

*Associate Professor Damien Riggs
and Dr Clare Bartholomaeus*

November, 2016

