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APPENDIX A **INFORMATION SHEET**

Project Title: The knowledge and experiences of single mothers raising an autistic child in a low-income community in the Western Cape.

What is this study about?

This is a research project being conducted by Bronwyn Mthimunye at the University of the Western Cape and I'm inviting you to participate in this research project. The purpose of this study is to gain more insight into the experiences of single mothers raising an autistic child within a low-income community.

What will I be asked to do if I agree to participate?

An in-depth interview will be conducted and you will be asked to discuss certain questions posed. The questions that will be addressed will be related to your experiences raising an autistic child and specifically in a low-income community. The interview will be conducted at the Noluthando School of the Deaf with their permission. The interview will be done within an hour.

Would my participation in this study be kept confidential?

I will do my best to keep your personal information confidential. To help protect your confidentiality, the information you provide will be totally private; no names will be used so there are no way you can be identified for participating in this study. Your information will be anonymous and treated confidentially. If we write a report or article about this research project, your identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible.

What are the risks of this research?

There are no known risks associated with participating in this research project.

What are the benefits of this research?

This research is not designed to help you personally, but the results may help the investigator learn more about the experiences of single mothers raising an autistic child in a low-income area. We hope that, in the future, other people might benefit from this study in order to understand the experiences of a single mother raising an autistic child. The findings will provide greater insight into how they cope with the challenges and strive for resilience.

Do I have to be in this research and may I stop participating at any time?

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in this research, you may stop participating at any time. If you decide not to participate in this study or if you stop participating at any time, you will not be penalized or lose any benefits to which you otherwise qualify. Participation in the research is not a course requirement.

Is any assistance available if I am negatively affected by participating in this study?

Every effort has been taken to *protect you from any harm* in this study. If however, you may feel affected in any way by the questions asked in this questionnaire, you will be provided with information to seek help such as counselling.

What if I have questions?

This research is being conducted by *Mrs Bronwyn Mthimunye* at the University of the Western Cape. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact Mrs Bronwyn Mthimunye, email: brooi@uwc.ac.za

Should you have any questions regarding this study and your rights as a research participant or if you wish to report any problems you have experienced related to the study, please contact:

Dean of the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences
University of the Western Cape
Private Bag X17
Bellville 7535

This research has been approved by the University of the Western Cape's Senate Research Committee and Ethics Committee.



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APPENDIX B

CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS

Title of Research Project:

The experiences of single mothers raising an autistic child in a low-income community in the Western Cape.

The study has been described to me in language that I understand and I freely and voluntarily agree to participate. My questions about the study have been answered. I understand that my identity will not be disclosed and that I may withdraw from the study without giving a reason at any time and this will not negatively affect me in any way. I agree to have the interview audio recorded and kept confidential.

Participant’s signature.....

Date.....

Should you have any questions regarding this study or wish to report any problems you have experienced related to the study, please contact me:

Study Coordinator’s Name: Mrs Bronwyn Mthimunye

University of the Western Cape

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APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Tell what do you know about autism spectrum disorder? Diagnosis, Treatment & Intervention
2. How did you find out that your child had ASD? What was noticeable? What have you done about it?
3. Where did you go for help? Who sent you? Who told you where to go?
4. What were your reactions after finding out that your child has been diagnosed with Autism? Your thoughts? Your feelings?
5. When were you informed about the diagnosis? What was said to you at the time?
6. Any support? If yes who? What was their role in assisting you?
7. If no how did you cope?
8. Is there enough support in the community? What would you like to see in the community?
9. On a day to day basis what would you describe as a typical day?
10. What are the challenges you are facing on a daily basis?
11. Being a single mother what added stressors do you encounter? How do you deal with these stressors?
12. Would you say you are coping? Why?