



Wellington South  
PARENTS CENTRE

## Policy on supporting research

### Introduction

Wellington South Parents Centre operates in a part of the city with a major teaching hospital, a medical school and two universities. We are frequently asked to participate in and support research projects. Many of these projects require access to members and/or antenatal class participants.

While we applaud the research being done in our area of interest, we are required to keep the needs of our members paramount. We recognise that pregnancy, and participation in antenatal education, can be a stressful and intensely personal experience.

### Objectives

The objective of this policy is to ensure that the needs of our members, antenatal class participants, Childbirth Education teachers and volunteers are met while we support research projects with potential to add to the body of knowledge of pregnancy, childbirth and parenting.

- All research projects that we support have met the criteria of this policy and been approved by the committee.
- The general membership of WSPC is advised of the research we are supporting.
- WSPC has access to the results of the research
- WSPC reserves the right to withdraw or limit the support

### **WSPC supports only that research shown to meet our criteria, and approved by committee.**

Criteria:

- The research has ethical approval from the researcher's university or medical school.
- The research furthers the aims of Parents Centre.
- There are demonstrated links to the mission and philosophies of Parents Centre.
- The involvement of our members is voluntary – members elect to take part.
- WSPC is not required to administer or monitor the involvement of members in any way.
- WSPC does not share membership information
- Researchers are not permitted to take part or be present for any part of an antenatal class without the prior permission of the Committee, the Childbirth Educator and the class participants.

Researchers are required to complete the form "Application for Support for a Research Project" and forward it to the President of WSPC.

An example of the form is attached as Appendix A

**Notification to general membership.**

Each issue of the Newsletter shall include a paragraph advising that committee has approved all the research projects, which are currently supported by WSPC, and that this includes assessment to ensure the research will add to the knowledge of birth, parenting and pregnancy. Members will be advised that participation is voluntary and that any questions can be directed to the President.

This policy was agreed by the WSPC Committee on 18 November 2003  
It is due for revision in 2005.

Signed (President) "J Watson"

Date: "18 Nov 2003"

**Implementation:**

1. Advice notice in each issue of the newsletter *Newsletter Editor*
2. Copy policy to CBE's and have a copy of it available at antenatal classes *Antenatal convenor*
3. Form is sent to researchers when they make their initial contact. *President*
4. Completed form and supporting documentation circulated to committee and decision to approve is made at an ordinary committee meeting *President*
5. Advise decision to Researchers *President*
6. Antenatal and/or Parent Ed subcommittees take required action *Antenatal and Parent Ed Convenors.*

## ***Application for support of a Research Project***

Researcher(s) contact details including after-hours telephone or mobile phone.

Outline of research including hypothesis, research methods, when results will be finalised, and whether or not this research is part of a qualification programme.

Continue on a separate sheet of paper if required

It is important that any research we support furthers the aims of our organisation.

Please describe how your research achieves this, with particular reference to the mission and philosophies of Parents Centre.

Reference: [www.parentscentre.org.nz](http://www.parentscentre.org.nz)

Please describe the support you want from us, being aware that:

- The involvement of our members is voluntary – members elect to take part.
- WSPC does not share membership information

- Researchers are not permitted to take part or be present for any part of an antenatal class without the prior permission of the Committee, the Childbirth Educator and the class participants.

Please set out exactly what you require from us and when. Remember that we are an organisation of volunteers so we will be more receptive to researchers who are prepared to do much of the work themselves.

Please tell us how and when this research will be published. Parents Centre expects to be acknowledged and to receive a complementary copy of the research.

Please attach evidence of ethical approval for this research.

If there is anything else you would like us to know please either write it here, or attach a separate sheet.

Our committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Your proposal must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month. We will endeavour to get your Request for Support onto the agenda of the next Meeting after we receive it.

Any questions about the form or process should be addressed to:  
Telephone: (answer phone) 380-8002  
Or by Mail: PO Box 14-378 Kilbirnie, Wellington  
Or by Email: [wgt.nsth@parentscentre.org.nz](mailto:wgt.nsth@parentscentre.org.nz).