Dear Principal,

My name is Marita Falkmer and I am a researcher at Curtin University and a member of The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC) which is the world’s first cooperative research effort focused on autism across the lifespan. We are currently conducting two longitudinal questionnaire studies aiming to better understand the mental and physical health and overall wellbeing of school leavers and adults with and without autism and/or their parents. This is a national study and it is vital that we get the western Australian perspective represented. In order to promote change for persons with autism, we also to know what is happening when students without autism leave school and how life is for adults without autism.

I am writing to you as this gives your students (above the age of 15) with and without autism and their parents the opportunity to make a change for the better for people living with autism by answering a questionnaire. I would like to ask for your support in recruiting participants to these unique studies by distributing information about the study to your students, age 15 and above and their parents. We are also looking for participants who are adults i.e., 25 years or older which provides your staff and parents with an opportunity to help improve life for adults with autism by answering questionnaires. As mentioned, we really need more students’/parents’ perspectives from Western Australia in this national study.

Participants will be asked to:
• Complete a questionnaire either online or via a paper copy
• Complete more questions two years later, if they want to.
Participants can stop being a part of the study at any time.

The results of this study will be used to inform services and guide policy development and contribute to making services better for school leavers and adults with Autism in the future. These studies are approved by Curtin University (HR208/2015), University of New South Wales (HC15001) and La Trobe University (14-095 Mod 8) Human Research Ethics Committees and have ethics approval by Catholic education WA (application number 14-095).

I have attached flyers with brief information about the studies for your information. I am happy to send more flyers and/or send them in hard copies if that suits you.

I’m looking forward to your reply regarding my kind request and I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this study over the phone 08-92663605, on my mobile 045-8484990 or on email: marita.falkmer@curtin.edu.au

I hope to follow up this letter with a phone call to your school within the near future.
Kind regards, Dr Marita Falkmer

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
School of Occupational Therapy & Social Work
Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute
Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC)
Longitudinal Study of School Leavers with Autism and their Families

Do you want to help students with autism succeed after leaving school?

What is the study about? The move from school to adult life is often difficult for students with autism. In order to change this, we need your help to understand what is happening for students with and without autism.

We want to hear from:
- young people with or without autism between the ages of 15 to 25 years
- their parents or guardians

What would you do?
- Complete questionnaires. You can stop being a part of the study at any time.

To express interest to participate find or out more; Copy this text:

Hi, I would like more information about your longitudinal study. and send it to:
Mirko Uljarevic (M.Uljarevic@latrobe.edu.au) or Ru Ying Cai (R.Cai@latrobe.edu.au)

You can also contact: Marita Falkmer 08 9266 3605 marita.falkmer@curtin.edu.au

Once you complete the survey you will be entered in a draw and have 1 in 5 chance to win $50 dollar voucher.