VERBAL RECRUITMENT GUIDE – Pathways App

This guide outlines the key points to be covered when the Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer makes initial contact with families about the study. It is not a word-for-word script and does not replace the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PISC). It is intended only as a guide for the initial introduction to the study, to be communicated in a way that feels natural and appropriate to the conversation and relationship. The full PISC will be provided to all families who express interest and must be read and discussed before any consent is sought.

Hi, I wanted to talk to you about a research study we are involved in through Far West Community Partnerships and Flinders University. It is called the Pathways App Pilot Study and it is about an app that has been designed to help families like yours keep track of their child's ear health, things like symptoms, medications and appointments.

We are looking for families who have a child aged up to eight years old who has had ear problems, to try out the app over at least 3 months and tell us what they think of it. The app use is completely up to you, there is no expectation of how much or how little you use it, just whenever it feels useful in your day-to-day life. You will need access to a smartphone to use the app, either your own or one belonging to someone in your family, and I can help work out what might suit you.

After you've been using the app for about four weeks, you'll receive a $25 gift voucher. Then, at the end of your time using the app (at least 3 months), I would ask you to sit down with me for around 15 to 20 minutes to answer some questions about how you found the app, and you'll receive another $25 voucher for that. There is also an optional interview with the Flinders University research team, which takes around 40 minutes, and if you take part in that there is an additional $50 voucher. The interview will be conducted face-to-face where possible, or by phone or video call depending on what works for you and what is practical at the time for the researcher.

Taking part is completely your choice and you can stop at any time. It will not affect anything else, including your access to services.

If you are interested, I can give you an information sheet to take home and have a read. It goes through what the study involves in more detail, your rights, confidentiality, and what the time commitment looks like. There is no rush and you can ask me any questions before you decide. You can also give me your contact details or scan the QR code on the flyer and someone will follow up with you.