

Queensland Family Cohort

Mater's Queensland Family Cohort (MQFC) team needs your help to find out how the health of family members impacts future health

Why is the research being done?

We are interested in finding out how the health of your pregnancy impacts the future health of you and your jarjums. These are factors including your environment, what you eat, how you sleep, and any kind of stress you may have that can impact on future health.

In understanding what is important for good health, we can ensure health care in the future meets the needs within our communities. We want this study to include families who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and from other cultures that live within Queensland, as different cultural groups have different health needs.

Who can be involved?

Families having babies at Mater Mothers' Hospital are invited to participate in Mater's Queensland Family Cohort (MQFC) Pilot Study. Partners (if applicable) are also encouraged to participate.

Your care will not change at any time if you choose not to be involved in the study. You can also stop at any time.

What do I have to do?

The study has meetings in person or by phone at 24, 28, 36 weeks of your pregnancy, at delivery, and again six weeks after your baby's birth. Your partner (if applicable) does not need to come to every visit.

These visits can last up to 90 minutes. More information is available from your participant information and consent form.

Summary

Medical Record Information: Information is collected directly from your medical records, to make visits quicker. This can include your health history and birth information.

Surveys: A large number of surveys are used for this study for you and your partner (if applicable). These include your cultural background, wellbeing, education, family history, diet, sleep, and past pregnancy history. Many can be completed conveniently online or over the phone.

Measurements: This includes your height, weight and blood pressure for you and your partner, and measurements of your body shape. Once your baby is born, the team would also like to measure your baby's growth and body shape.

Samples: While collections don't occur on every visit, or always from each family member, samples that will be collected include: blood, urine, saliva, toenails, hair, and stool samples.

How will my identity be protected?

All information provided to the research team will remain private. The link to who



you and your family are kept separately with a code provided to you and securely stored at Mater only.

Findings from the study will not name you or your family in any way.

What happens to my information?

Your samples collected during the study will form a "biobank". A biobank is a large collection of human samples that is linked to personal and health information.

Your personal and health information collected from the surveys, measurements, genetic information and medical records forms a "databank".

The biobank and databank created will be linked only for use in health research to answer questions about human health and disease.

Are there any risks?

There are few risks to being involved. All blood samples are taken by trained, experienced staff to minimise any discomfort.

What benefits will there be for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?



The results

Collections will be analysed by Mater experts. A full list of places is included in the participant information and consent form.

Research of this kind, can sometimes find previously untreated health concerns. If a concern arises and Mater experts believe it should be monitored, it is important that we let you know. You can choose not to be contacted, but otherwise, Mater staff will contact you by letter and follow-up by telephone.

The research team

The full details of the research team are included in the participant information and consent form.

Questions?

If at any time during the study you have any problems regarding appointments or have any other queries, or immediate concerns please ring 0439 945 068 and one of our research team members will answer your call.

Complaints about this research

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Mater Misericordiae Limited Human Research Ethics Committee (MML HREC Number: EC 00332), and by Mater's Governance Office. If you wish to discuss the approval process with someone not directly involved in the study, or have any concerns or complaints, you may contact the Human Research Ethics Committee office on (07) 3163 1585 or alternatively, Mater Research's Governance Officer on (07) 3163 3769.