This research aims to develop new understanding how of children and young people with disability experience family violence.

In capturing children and young people and families’ views on how they are supported during and after violence, we will be able to provide advice to ensure that policy and practice better meets their needs and wishes.

The project is conducted by a team of researchers from Flinders University Disability & Community Inclusion, University of South Australia Centre for Child Protection, and UNSW Social Policy Research Centre. It runs for 12 months (March 2021 to March 2022). The team has expertise in working with children and young people with disability and their families, and are committed to ensuring that their involvement is safe.

**Why we are doing this research**

We all have a responsibility to provide better support to children and young people with disability who experience family violence. We know children and young people with disability are more likely to experience violence and abuse but for many reasons we have not been able to provide an accurate picture of how or why. Our project aims to resolve this by bringing together a range of data to help us know what is going on for children and young people with disability at a population level.

We also want to know how well mainstream and disability services are supporting children and young people with disability, and what services do to help when they are experiencing violence. We believe that children and young people with disability and their families can give us a unique and valuable account of what is happening and what might be improved.

**How we are doing this research**

The project has three phases:

1. We will analyse population level data sets to identify how common family violence is for children and young people with disability. We will link the data sets to improve how we can identify children and young people with disability in the data.
2. We will interview young people with disability aged 8 and over, family members and service providers about their ideas, experiences, and priorities for improving supports when children and young people with disability experience DFV.
3. The last part of the project involves bringing people together to find out how policies and systems can be more responsive to young people’s priorities.

This project is guided by advisory groups of young people with disability, policy advisers and practitioners who are providing advice and feedback on our approach and how to increase the impact of our findings.

**To get involved**

If you would like to know more about the project or be involved, please contact either Professor Sally Robinson sally.robinson@flinders.edu.au or (08) 7421 9845, or Dr Amy Marshall amy.marshall@flinders.edu.au or (08) 8201 3009.