



## Seeking 3,000+ Aussie volunteers for 'Genetics of Stuttering Study'

Tomorrow (**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**), researchers from the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Speech and Language will call for 3,000 Australians aged seven and above with experience of stuttering (past or present) to volunteer for the nation's largest ever '*Genetics of Stuttering Study*'.

The study aims to pinpoint the genes that predispose individuals to stuttering, which could revolutionise future research into the causes, treatment and prevention of the disorder.

Globally, one per cent of adults stutter,<sup>1,2</sup> and nearly 70 per cent of people who stutter report a family history of the disorder.<sup>3</sup>

**Winner of *The Voice Australia* 2013, who has lived with stuttering since childhood, Harrison Craig**, Melbourne, is teaming with study researchers and those who stutter nation-wide, to lend his voice to this worthy cause.

To learn more about the study and why 3,000 Australian volunteers are urgently required, tee up an interview with an expert, Harrison Craig or study participant tomorrow.



### HIGH PROFILE STUTTERING ADVOCATE

**Harrison Craig**

Winner of *The Voice Australia* 2013, ARIA chart-topping singer, entertainer & children's author continuing to thrive despite his life-long stutter, **MELBOURNE**

### EXPERTS

**Prof Angela Morgan**

Chief Investigator, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for Speech & Language *Genetics of Stuttering Study*, speech pathologist & NHMRC Practitioner Fellow, **MELBOURNE**

**Prof Melanie Bahlo**

Statistical Geneticist & NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, **MELBOURNE**

**Dr Oren Civism**

Imaging Research Officer & Post-Doctoral Fellow, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, **MELBOURNE**

**Prof Kirrie Ballard**

Head of Speech Pathology, University of Sydney, **SYDNEY**

**Prof Sheena Reilly**

Co-Chief Investigator, *Genetics of Stuttering Study*, Speech Pathologist & Pro Vice Chancellor (Health), Griffith University, **GOLD COAST**

**Prof John McGrath**

Psychiatrist, Director, QLD Centre for Mental Health Research & Conjoint Professor, Queensland Brain Institute, **BRISBANE**

**Dr Michelle Swift**

Speech pathologist, lecturer & clinical researcher, Flinders University, **ADELAIDE**

**Prof Eric Moses**

Director of the Centre for Genetic Origins of Health & Disease (GoHAD), **PERTH**

### STUDY PARTICIPANTS

**Tushar, 34**

Married father-to-one, banker, actor & model who has stuttered since childhood, **MELBOURNE**

**Sophie, 26**

Cartographer who lives with stuttering & enjoys singing, guitar, getting outdoors & photography, **MELBOURNE**

**Maria, 32**

Media agency founder, director & sailing enthusiast who stuttered as a child, **MELBOURNE**

**Lisa, 40**

Business owner & mother of two who has lived with a debilitating stutter, whose mother also stuttered, **SYDNEY**

**Samuel, 35**

Project manager & local Councillor who has stuttered since childhood, **SYDNEY**

**Paul, 64**

Civil structural engineer & university lecturer with a son who stutters, **SYDNEY**

**Mark, 64**

Life-long stutterer currently developing a website to coach & support those who stutter, **SYDNEY**

**Vikesh, 44**

Father-to-two, IT manager & keen cyclist who has stuttered since childhood, **BRISBANE**

**Kevin, 70**

Father, grandfather & retired electrical engineer who has battled a life-long stutter, whose father also stuttered, **BRISBANE**

**Mark, 65**

Dentist & National President of *SpeakEasy* who has stuttered since childhood, **ADELAIDE**

**Geoff, 71**

Retired accountant & computer programmer who has lived with a life-long stutter, whose father also stuttered, **ADELAIDE**

**Geoff, 73**

Father, grandfather & stuttering coach who has stuttered since childhood, whose father also stuttered, **PERTH**

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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**HOW TO VOLUNTEER:**

Head to [www.geneticsofstuttering.org.au](http://www.geneticsofstuttering.org.au)

**MEDIA KIT:**

Available for download **TUES, APRIL 17, 2018** from [geneticsofstutteringmediakit.org](http://geneticsofstutteringmediakit.org)

**BROADCAST VISION:**

Available via satellite feed @9:15am AEDT on **TUES, APRIL 17, 2018** from 7 network (SYD) – please record & ask Ch 7 in your capital city to on-pass, if an affiliate

### References

1. The Conversation. Explainer: What is stuttering? (2012) <https://theconversation.com/explainer-what-is-stuttering-9560> [last accessed Jan, 2018].
2. Speech Pathology Australia. Stuttering Fact Sheet. Available for download at [http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spaweb/Document\\_Management/Public/Fact\\_Sheets.aspx#anchor\\_stut](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spaweb/Document_Management/Public/Fact_Sheets.aspx#anchor_stut) [last accessed Jan, 2018].
3. Onslow, M. (2017). Stuttering and its treatments, Eleven Lecture. Available at <http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/asrc/downloads/index.shtml> [last accessed Jan, 2018].