



## COMPETENT CHILDREN PROJECT DATABASE

### APPLICATION FOR USE OF DATA

The Competent Children project is an NZCER longitudinal project which has followed some 500 children from age near-5, when the children in the sample were attending their final early childhood education centre. The project began in 1993-94, and has collected data on the study children at age near-5 and age 6 (full data for 300 of the 500), and ages 8, 10, 12, and 14.

Reports on each phase up to age 10 are available on the NZCER website. The age-12 report will be available in August 2004, and the age-14 report, in mid-2005. The project has been funded by the Ministry of Education and NZCER.

The Competent Children project data are being made available for secondary analysis by other researchers on application to the Competent Children database committee. The committee comprises the leader of the project and NZCER's Data Manager/Statistician, and the Senior Manager and Manager, Research & Evaluation, from the Research Division of the Ministry of Education.

The data are being progressively released as follows:

- Available now: ages 5, 6, and 8.
- Available by end 2005: ages 10 and 12.
- Available by end 2006: age 14.

NZCER will make available to bona fide researchers whose applications are accepted by the Competent Children database committee:

- electronic or printed copies of the data dictionaries, which will detail the codings used in the data sets, as well as clarifying any differences between the instruments and the variables in the data set.
- flat text (comma-delimited) files of the data sets. These data sets can be linked using a unique identity code for each student and by a school number. The data have been anonymised so that no participating individual, early childhood education centre, or school can be identified.

There is a NZ\$100 application fee to cover the costs of processing the application. NZCER will process applications within five weeks of receipt.

To make an application, you will need to fill out the template that follows. It asks for the following:

- If you are not a post-graduate student, evidence that you have undertaken research or analysis, e.g. a list of relevant publications or reports,
- If you want to use the data as part of post-graduate work, supporting documentation from your supervisor that provides evidence that you will be adequately supervised,
- An outline of the research you intend to use the Competent Children project data for, with evidence that the proposed research has been approved within your own institution, including gaining ethical approval, conditional on your being approved to use the Competent Children project data, and the length of time the research will run,
- An undertaking that you will keep the data safe from copying by any other persons or for use for any purpose other than the research project you intend to use the data for, and
- The names of the people who will use the data in their work on the research project.

Once approval has been granted, you will be asked to fill out and sign a contract before the data is released to you.

In 2004-05, please send your applications to:  
Cathy Wylie & Edith Hodgen,  
NZCER,  
P O Box 3237,  
Wellington, New Zealand

## APPLICATION TEMPLATE FOR USE OF COMPETENT CHILDREN DATA

Name and contact details of applicant:	
Name and contact details of employer/institution:	
Name and contact details of supervisor (if undertaking post-graduate research):	
If you intend using the data for post-graduate work, has your supervisor approved this study? (Attach supporting letter.)	Yes/no
<p>Outline of study in which you will use the data [max 500 words].</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Aim Rationale Method, including analysis techniques Intended dissemination of results Time-frame</p>	(continue on separate page)
Has your study been granted approval by your institution's ethics committee?	Yes/no
If you are not a post-graduate student, please give references to up to 5 relevant articles or books you have written.	
Can you store this data so that it is password protected and accessible only to you and members of your research team?	Yes/no
Who are the members of your research team, and what are their roles on the team?	

## CONTRACT FOR USE OF COMPETENT CHILDREN DATA

I \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ institution, agree to use the Competent Children data given to me solely for the purpose of the research outlined in my application.

- I agree to store the data securely, with password protection, so it can only be accessed by myself and members of my research team. I, and members of my research team, will not copy or pass it on to any other person.
- I agree not to disclose to any third party, whether directly or indirectly, in any form or by any means, any of the Competent Children data I receive.
- I agree to use this data for statistical purposes only, and will make no attempt to identify any of the individuals or individual institutions to which the data refers, notwithstanding the measures taken to prevent identification.
- I agree that I and my project team will carry out analysis which is appropriate to the nature of the data collected, and that any analysis will be undertaken with the standards of skill, care, and diligence normally practised by experienced researchers.
- I agree to acknowledge the Competent Children project and the Ministry of Education in any publication from my work which makes use of the Competent Children data I am given.
- I agree to provide the New Zealand Council for Educational Research/Ministry of Education Competent Children database approval committee with a copy of any report, analysis and publications submitted that arise from my work using this database.

I understand that any failure to adhere to the terms of this contract, misuse of the data I am given in terms of copying for others, or analysis which is inappropriate in terms of the nature of the data, will result in my and my institution being unable to have further access to the Competent Children project data, and that knowledge of the breaking of the contract will be shared with other researchers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_