



14 February 2021

Central Institute for Mental Health  
J5  
68159 Mannheim

Dear Tobias,

### **Collaboration for Centre for Child Health**

As Chair of Developmental Mental Health, Departments of Paediatrics and Psychiatry, University of Melbourne I am delighted to be able to give my support and that of The Melbourne Children's Campus (The Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne) to your proposed Centre for Child Health. The Melbourne Children's Campus (MCC) is the largest clinical and research paediatric centre in the southern hemisphere. Our focus on integrating mental health within a broader child health focus fits well with your proposals for the German Centre. Germany is already a key strategic focus for research collaboration for the University of Melbourne who will be very keen to support this initiative as we move forward.

The MCC is in the process of implementing a campus wide mental health strategy. This means that now is the perfect time for us to build on our international collaborations and CHILDhealth provides a perfect opportunity for this. The proposed activities within CHILDhealth fit very well with our own research strengths and interests. MCC has a very strong tradition of developing and supporting longitudinal population and clinical cohorts and over the next few years we will be initiating GenV which is a modern state-wide birth cohort that takes advantage of linked clinical and administrative data and advanced bioinformatic approaches. Across many of our Lifecourse cohorts there is a focus in the integration of physical and mental health as well as cognitive and social development. Like you we are very much embracing the transdiagnostic approach to mental health which I think we all agree is the way forward for the field.

All this will of course build on our long-standing collaborative relationship that stretches back almost 20 years. I have had a formal link with your department for many years and you have already visited our campus so are aware of the strengths here. In recent years we have been able to broker many successful collaborations between our early career researchers. I look forward to being able to build and extend these further in the future.

Yours sincerely

**David Coghill MD, FRCPsych, FRANZCP**

Financial Markets Foundation Chair of Developmental Mental Health

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