



Congratulations!!

You are participating in a study which is taking steps towards a cure for diabetes.

As you will be aware, diabetes is a devastating disease that affects over 3% of all Australians ([NHS 2004-5](#)). In addition to the ongoing care and medications, diabetic complications are all too common. To battle this disease and find a cure, we need to identify genetic risk factors that determine your family's susceptibility to developing diabetes.

Diabetes is caused by an immune response that goes wrong. We do not know what causes this to happen, but we do know that children who get diabetes have certain genes which make them susceptible.

Unfortunately, collecting DNA samples for genetic research is both time consuming and costly. This is where the Repository can help.

The Repository will collect the DNA from 3000 Australian families affected by diabetes. Each family consists of the child with diabetes as well as his/her biological parents. This 'trio'

family will allow researchers to look at genetic links between diabetes, as well as other autoimmune diseases such as thyroid and coeliac disease.

We are taking a leap to include both children with type 1 diabetes (T1D) and child-onset type 2 diabetes (cT2D) because the number of cases of both diseases is increasing rapidly.

T2D has many environmental factors such as diet and exercise. To limit the effects of these factors, we believe it is important that we research this disease in children.

Recruitment

2007

The beginning of the Repository in 2006 saw a slow start to recruitment, but the Recruitment Clinics nation-wide are catching up...

	2006	2007
samples	552	528
trio families	124	170



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS
DIABETES?**

**WOULD THEIR PARENTS BE HAPPY TO
PARTICIPATE?**

PLEASE REFER THEM TO OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.acddr.org.au>

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-7

The National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) supports the Repository with funds. Each year, the Chief Investigators present a report to the NHMRC. The report was submitted in March 2007. This issue of UPDATE contains information from the report.

ACDDR WEBSITE

During 2006, a website for the Repository was developed. The website aims to provide you with up-to-date information about the Repository. Researchers interested in diabetes can also find out how the Repository can help their research. If you haven't yet, please have a look at:

<http://www.acddr.org.au>

EMPLOYMENT

The Repository supports two full-time positions in Perth: a Network Co-ordinator and a Laboratory Research Assistant. In addition, six hospitals nationally have people working for the Repository. These are the important people who spoke to you about the Repository and helped you to participate.

EQUIPMENT

Specialised equipment is needed to ensure long-term storage of your samples in the Repository. We are in the process of purchasing tubes and storage boxes to archive your family's DNA sample.

RECRUITMENT

A delay in recruiting has resulted in missing the target number of families in 2006. We need to have recruited 1200 families (mother, father and child) by the end of 2007. This is a big ask from only 6 recruitment hospitals nationally. If you know of any other families who would like to participate, please contact us.



CHALLENGES

Laboratory staff have found some saliva samples with discolouration and less than the amount of liquid required to collect your DNA. We emphasise to the participant the need to provide adequate amounts of samples after they rinse their mouth. Thank you for providing a suitable sample!

Some samples, regardless of the amount of saliva, contain less DNA. This could simply due to the fact that some people have less DNA in their saliva. We have another procedure to extract more DNA from the sample, however it is time consuming and one of the chemicals used has several health risks. This is a last resort before we ask you to provide another sample.

*Thank you for your commitment in helping
families affected by diabetes.*