

APPENDIX 5

Interview Guide – Women Participants

DRAFT ONLY

Due to the emerging nature of qualitative research, all questions are tentative and will change as the interviews and concurrent analysis proceed.

Purpose:

1. to elicit in-depth descriptive accounts of low-income women's everyday experiences
2. to identify connections between these women's experiences and theoretical constructions of social citizenship rights and responsibilities
3. to identify connections between these women's everyday experiences and broader social and fiscal policies (e.g. income security, labour market, health, education and social services) that are integral to social citizenship

Interview description:

1. remind participant of the purpose of the research project
2. review plain language statement
3. complete consent form
4. describe the purpose of the interview
5. explain the use of the tape recorder – remind participants that it may be turned off at any time at their request
6. remind the participant that there may be a need to clarify information or seek new information in a future interview

Anticipated interview questions:

Questions are arranged into three categories, following Spradley's (1979) description of the three types of ethnographic questions. These questions may not be read in the following order, but will be covered in the discussion.

Descriptive questions (provide description of activities)

1. Can you describe what you do in a normal day
2. Can you tell me about your family
 - a. Children
 - i. Child care options
 - b. Partner
 - i. Income
 - ii. Family support
 - c. Extended family
 - i. Their role
3. Tell me about your school/work/training program/etc
4. Can you tell me about the different sources of income you have
 - a. Work
 - b. Child support

- c. Family tax benefit
 - d. Welfare
 - e. Austudy
 - f. Other
5. Can you tell me about all of the different agencies you go to?
 - a. Day care, school, etc
 - b. Health centre, community centre, etc
 - c. Library, etc
 - d. Centrelink, etc

Structural questions (identify different domains of the phenomenon in question)

1. How has going to school/work/training program/etc affected what you do in a normal day?
2. What types of services do you use at <the agencies listed previously>?
 - a. Why do you use these services instead of others?
3. What do you like best about going to school/work/training program/etc?
4. Can you tell me about anything you don't like about school/work/training program/etc?
5. How do you balance your finances each month?

Contrast questions (explore difference between items)

1. These questions are contingent on the items identified by the interviewee. For example, a questions for someone who is now at work after completing a training program could be "how are the difficulties you face at work different from those you faced when you were in the training program?"

Probes (used to elicit additional information to that given in the initial response)

Tactics for gaining additional information will include:

1. repeating the question / answer
2. indicating understanding or interest, or problem of understanding
3. creating silences or pauses
4. using a neutral question or comment (e.g. what do you mean by _____?)
5. requesting an example or asking for clarification

At the conclusion of the interview, ask the participant if they have any further comments they would like to make or information they would like to discuss. Thank them for their time, and remind them of the possibility of a follow-up interview.