APPENDIX C

Best practice models in Indigenous out-of-home care:

WORDING FOR OBTAINING ORAL CONSENT

When conducting focus groups or individual interviews with Indigenous carers or young people, the following statement will be read out:

[FOR YOUNG PEOPLE]: “Thank you for coming along today. My name is [name of researcher/s]. I’m part of a team of researchers from the Australian Institute of Family Studies conducting a study about Indigenous young people and their experiences with out-of-home care. Your name won’t be used, and whatever you say won’t be reported back to your guardian, carer or parents, the agency or the department unless you tell me about something serious or life threatening. Your legal guardian has given permission for you to participate. However, just because they’ve given their permission doesn’t mean that you have to if you don’t want to. So, I’d like to check with you now: Are you happy to answer some questions about yourself and your experiences in care? If you are not happy, then it’s OK to leave. You can leave at any point during the group, however, the things that we are saying today will be tape-recorded, so we won’t be able to return the tapes to anyone who no longer wants to participate once we have begun.

[FOR CARERS]: “Thank you for coming along today. My name is [name of researcher/s]. I’m part of a team of researchers from the Australian Institute of Family Studies conducting a study about Indigenous young people and their experiences with out-of-home care. Your name won’t be used, and whatever you say won’t be reported back to the young person in your care, the agency or the department unless you tell me about something serious or life threatening. Your participation is voluntary, so I’d like to check with you now: Are you happy to answer some questions about yourself and your experiences in caring for children/young people? If you are not happy, then it’s OK to leave. You can leave at any point during the group, however, the things that we are saying today will be tape-recorded, so we won’t be able to return the tapes to anyone who no longer wants to participate once we have begun.

[ALL]: I’ll hand around the vouchers now, as a thank you for coming along today – regardless of whether you decide to stay and participate or not. It’s a voucher for at least $10 you can use them at any [name of store] to buy stuff. And it’s a thank you from us.

We won’t be using surnames. So just use your first name, or make up a name that you will feel comfortable using today. My name is [name of researcher/s]. What would you like me to call you? [record name/pseudonym of each participant]. Please remember that what each person says today is personal, so can we all agree to respect each other’s privacy and not talk to others about what other people have said in the group today.