Grandparents' lifestyles under the microscope

GRANDPARENTS-to-be are the focus of a new study at the Flinders Medical Centre.

The study monitors lifestyle and health changes of first-time grandparents from when their daughter or daughter-in-law is pregnant until the child is two years old.

Project manager Carolyn Corkindale said the study was much needed. "Very little study has been conducted on grandparents in Australia and yet they are the largest providers of non-parental childcare in this country," she said.

The study also examines how closely grandparents bond with their grandchildren, how satisfied grandparents are in their new role and how family relationships are affected.

Mrs Corkindale hoped to recruit up to 600 participants. “We will continue to recruit new participants up until November next year,” she said. “Findings are recorded from questionnaires that participants fill out every six months.”

First-time grandmother Wendy Carter, of Christies Beach, said she was excited to be part of the study. “My daughter Bianca is expecting her first child in February and I am sure that I will play a significant role in the upbringing,” she said. “This study is important because it will help people to recognise the major role that grandparents play.”

If you are interested in participating in the study phone Carolyn Corkindale on 8275 1773 or email carolyn.corkindale@flinders.edu.au

INVOLVED: Bianca Moore and her mother Wendy Carter are in the study.