



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Survivor experiences with law enforcement (Project ID: 44187)

Associate Professor Bridget Harris on behalf of the team

Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre, Department of Criminology

Phone: 03 9905 2962

email: ConnectingWithLivedExperience@monash.edu or bridget.harris@monash.edu

You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the team via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Interviews & focus groups with young victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence

Project title: Survivors experiences of law enforcement

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC) Project ID: 44187

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Bridget Harris

Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre

Faculty of Arts, Monash University

Phone: (03) 9905 2962

Email: bridget.harris@monash.edu

You are invited to be part of a research project being done by Monash University.

This document is called an Explanatory Statement, which includes all the important information about the research project. Please read this document carefully before deciding if you want to take part in the research. You may also want to talk to someone you trust before making a decision about taking part, but you may also want to keep your decision private.

If you have any questions or want more information about the research, please contact Dr Jasmine McGowan – jasmine.mcgowan@monash.edu

We will happily answer any questions or provide more information before you make a decision about taking part in the research.

What is the research project about?

A team of researchers from Monash University are completing national consultations with victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence about their experience of police. We want to hear about why and how you sought help from police and what the police did. We are doing this work on behalf of the Australian Government.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact the Chief Investigator using the contact details at the top of this document or the project email address provided above.

How can I take part in the research?

You can be part of this research by:

- Contacting Dr Jasmine McGowan to register your interest – jasmine.mcgowan@monash.edu
- Taking part in an individual interview or a focus group (around 60 minutes) with other young people.

What will my participation involve?

Participating in this research will involve taking part in either an individual interview or a group discussion (called a focus group). These can be held in-person or virtually. The virtual interviews and focus groups will be facilitated by using a video call platform called Zoom. Monash researchers will facilitate and run the virtual focus groups. There will be around 3-5 other young people aged 15 and up in the online discussion with you and it will take around 60 minutes.

The interviews and focus groups will be held in early 2025, they will take place outside of school hours and they will be scheduled according to demand. When you tell us that you want to be part of the research, we will tell you a few different days and times that you can join a group. You can decide which group discussion you want to register for based on your availability and time preferences. To access the Zoom video call, you will need access to a computer or smartphone with internet connection. We recommend making sure you have somewhere quiet and private to join the focus group where you can speak comfortably and confidentially.

Before the virtual focus group, a member of our research team will call you and go through a phone questionnaire. They will also ask you a few questions (like your gender, age, and which state/territory you live in). This helps us to understand differences in young people's experiences and to broadly describe the background information about our research participants.

During the virtual group discussion, we will ask questions about which influencers and groups you follow, what you like/dislike about the content and how this content impacts your day-to-day. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer during the virtual focus group, and if there are any questions you can't think of an answer for it doesn't matter.

If there isn't enough interest in focus groups or you would like to take part in the research but don't feel comfortable in a group setting, we will arrange an individual interview instead. Please contact us if you would like to request an individual interview.

Please let the research team know if you have any accessibility considerations you would like us to be aware of for the virtual group discussion.

What will happen to the information I give?

Your answers to the phone questionnaire will form part of a bigger data set with the same information for everyone who takes part in a focus group. This means it won't be possible to tell which answers are yours. We are collecting this information so we can describe the general profile of the young people who are part of the research.

With your consent, we will record the interview or group discussion and the group chat. Although Zoom automatically records audio, video, and the chat text, we will permanently delete the video recording immediately after each workshop and only store the audio recording and chat text. We will use the audio recording to create a transcription of the group discussion (a written copy of the audio recording), which we will then use for data analysis.

The recordings and transcripts from each interview and focus group will be combined into a bigger data set. This will make it harder to tell individual answers from each other and will help keep your participation in the research private and confidential.

The combined data set from the interviews and focus groups will be analysed by the research team to look for common patterns and themes about young victim-survivors' experiences with police and how they can better help people experiencing violence. The Australian Government will use this information to design a training program for police.

Why am I being invited to participate?

Participation in the interviews and focus groups are open to any young person in Australia who is aged 15 years and over at the time of the project. You are encouraged to contact the Chief Investigator if you have any questions about whether you are eligible to be part of the project based on these criteria.

Please note that if we think a participant might be misrepresenting themselves (e.g., lying about their age), we may decide to remove them from the research project.

Who is paying for this research?

This research project is funded by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

Even though the Australian Government is paying for this research, we will not tell the Government who participated in the study or share any information that could tell them you are (including names, contact information, or other personal details).

How do I agree to be part of the research?

After reading this document, if you want to participate in an interview or focus group please click on this link (or copy and paste into a web browser) please contact jasmine.mcgowan@monash.edu

At the beginning of the interview or focus group, the researcher will also complete a verbal consent process to get your permission to take part in the research. They will check that you agree to take part in an interview or focus group, that you understand the session will be recorded and that your information will be kept confidential so no one outside the research team will know you participated in the study or what you said. This process is important because it is an official record for our research team that says you agree to being contacted about taking part in the research and understand what you will be asked to do. They will also ask if you agree to having the collected data used by the research team in future projects.

This part of the session will be audio recorded but we will not include your name or any personal information in the recording of this process. Our university has rules about how research involving people should be conducted to ensure it is safe and we have to record the consent process to meet these rules.

Participation in any research project is completely voluntary. It is your personal decision if you want to take part in this research. There will not be any consequences if you decide not to participate, or if you later change your mind.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind about participating in this research at any time.

During the interview or focus group, you don't have to answer any questions that you don't want to answer. If you can't think of an answer to a question, it doesn't matter. If you want to stop or leave at any time during the interview or group conversation, you can do that by closing the Zoom call.

You can withdraw from the research at any time before the interview or focus group. You can also decide you want to stop after the session has started but because it is a group discussion it won't be possible to remove your individual responses from our recording.

Good things about taking part in the research

The Australian Government has asked our research team to do this work to help develop a national training program for police. Our research team wants to help improve police responses to victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence. We want to do this by asking victim-survivors about their experiences with police. We also want to learn about the best way that we can support police to help victim-survivors.

We do not anticipate any direct benefits to you through taking part in this research project, but you may feel positive afterwards about sharing your experiences and having your voice and opinions heard on this important topic. You may also feel good about contributing to research that could influence police practice and policies that impact on people's lives in Australia.

Possible bad things about taking part in the research and what happens afterwards

You may be asked a question or hear something during the discussion that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. We do not want you to get upset and if this happens, you can stop. For example, you can exit the virtual interview or focus group and you do not have to tell the research team first. You can message a facilitator using the private chat function in Zoom and tell them that you are upset and they will help get you support.

If you feel upset after the group chat and you want to speak with someone, we have provided a list of support services at the end of this document. You can also contact Naomi using the information at the top of this document and she will help connect you with a support service.

Payment for taking part in the research

Each person who participates in an interview or focus group will receive a \$50 digital voucher as reimbursement for their time and contribution to the project. The electronic gift voucher will be emailed to you by a member of the research team shortly after the focus group, regardless of whether you complete the full session or not.

Confidentiality and privacy

Your participation in this study will be kept confidential and we will not tell anyone that you took part in this study. This means that nobody outside of the research team and the other young people in the group discussion will know you have taken part in the research and answered these questions.

When we write our report, we will not use your real name or any information that could let anyone know who you are (e.g., your email address or personal information you share during the interview or focus group, like the name of your school or the area where you live). Your name will not be listed in the Final Report, unless you indicate that you would like to be listed as a participant.

We will ask for your email address so we can send you the link for the Zoom call before the interview or focus group, and a gift voucher to thank you for participating after the interview or focus group. This contact information will be stored separately from any of the research data (including focus group recordings, transcripts, and the phone

questionnaire responses) and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. Your contact details will not be included in the Final Report.

At the start of the focus group, we will talk about rules for the group discussion. This includes respecting other people's privacy and not sharing any information you hear during the virtual discussion with someone else. The discussion will take place in a group setting so you should only share what you feel comfortable. You do not have to share any personal information with the other people in the group (like the name of your friends or family members). If someone asks for your name, address or other personal information in the chat, you should not give it to them. You should tell the research team and the researchers will remove this person from the group.

After the focus group, the audio recording will be sent to a business that listens to it and types up everything that is said to create a transcript (a written copy of the audio recording). This business is called SmartDocs and they also protect everyone's privacy. We have a confidentiality agreement with SmartDocs to make sure they do not share any information about what they hear when they create the transcripts.

We also need to tell you that if we hear anything that suggests you or another child or young person is presently in danger, we have to report this.

How will the information be kept?

All recordings, transcripts and other data from the research will be stored in a safe electronic folder that is password protected. Only the research team will have access to this folder. The information is stored for at least five years after the research study has ended. If you agree, the information can be used by the same Monash people in other research projects.

How can I find out about the results of the research?

The research findings will be published subject to approval from the funder. You will be able to get a copy of the report we write on our website: <https://arts.monash.edu/gender-and-family-violence>.

Letting someone know if you are not happy about the project

If you are unhappy or have any concerns about something that happens during the research, you can speak to the person listed below. You can also speak with someone who can provide tailored support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people using the same contact details.

Executive Officer (MUHREC)
Office of Research Ethics and Integrity
Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus
Monash University VIC 3800
Tel: +61 3 9905 2052
Email: muhrec@monash.edu

National support services

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| 1800 Respect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: 24/7 domestic, family and sexual violence support and counselling • Phone: 1800 737 732 • Interpreter number: 13 14 50 • Website and online chat: 1800respect.org.au |
| 13YARN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: 24/7 crisis counselling for and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people • Phone: 13 92 76 • Website: 13yarn.org.au |
| Lifeline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: 24/7 mental health crisis counselling • Phone: 13 11 14 • Website and online chat: lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat/ |
| Kids Helpline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: 24/7 counselling service for children and young people aged 5-25 • Phone: 1800 55 1800 • Website and online chat: kidshelpline.com.au |
| Headspace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: mental health support for people under the age of 25 • Website and online chat: headspace.org.au |
| Reach Out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support for young people and their parents • Website: reachout.com |
| QLife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: Support service for LGBTQIA+ communities, 3pm to midnight daily • Phone: 1800 184 527 • Website and online chat: qlife.org.au |
| Australian Childhood Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: Support service for children healing from abuse, neglect and family violence • Phone: 1300 381 581 • Website and find a local program: childhood.org.au/our-work/ |
| Full Stop Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: 24/7 counselling and recovery service for violence, abuse and trauma • Phone: 1800 385 578 • Rainbow Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Helpline: 1800 497 212 • Website: fullstop.org.au/get-help |
| Relationships Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service: Peak body for relationship support and counselling, provide links to local support organisations • Phone: 1300 364 277 • Website and find a local service: relationships.org.au/support/#Find-a-service |