



**Pathway
for Change**

Information for (ex) Partners of Program Participants

Pathway for Change: longitudinal evaluation of family violence programs

Responsible Researchers: Associate Professor Kristin Diemer, Associate Professor Laura Tarzia, Ms Jess Letch

Interview Research Team: Dr Mandy McKenzie, Dr Heshani De Silva, Ms Jasmin Isobe

Thank you for your interest in participating in this project. The following few pages include information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part or not. We can talk through the information, or you can read it through. You may ask questions about anything that is unclear, or you want to know more about.

The purpose of the project is to understand:

- Whether your (ex)partner's abusive behaviour has changed since engaging with the program. This may be positive or negative, or no change.
- The impact of your (ex)partner's involvement in the program on you and your children
- What support you or your children need either before, while your (ex)partner is participating in the program, or afterwards

Project outcomes

- To produce program practice recommendations based on the project findings
- To develop knowledge about the Family Safety Advocate program
- To develop tools for evaluating the effectiveness of programs

What you need to know about being involved

- If you agree to be involved, we will invite you to participate in one or more interviews, to explore the impact of your current or former partner's participation in the behaviour change program and the support you have received. To make this research useful, we need to have meaningful conversations with you and may take 45-60 minutes.
- Each interview will be conducted over the phone or by online video conferencing (eg. Zoom). With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded for accurate transcription
- You will also be sent a link to complete very short online surveys in between the interviews. A total of 3-4 survey links will be sent to you.
- During the interview, issues of family violence will be discussed including questions about how your partner/ex-partner has behaved toward you and any children you have.

Will I be paid for being involved?

The interviews may take approximately 45-60 minutes each. To reimburse you for your time, you will receive a \$50 gift card for the first interview, \$100 gift card for the second interview and \$150 gift card for the third interview.

Who benefits from the project?

While you may not benefit directly from participation in the project, you may appreciate the opportunity to reflect on your own experiences. Your feedback and comments about the program will be making an important contribution towards understanding the process of change and may benefit others who attend the program in the future.

What else do I need to know?

- Participation in the research is voluntary. We will ask for your consent to participate in any of the activities listed above. If you do not participate this will not affect any service you receive
- Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so.
- With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded so that we can ensure that we make an accurate record of what you say. Your participation is confidential. We will not share your interview recording with anyone outside of the research team.
- You do not have to answer any question that makes you feel uncomfortable. If there is a question you do not want to answer, let the interviewer know and they will move to the next question.

What about my privacy?

- You will not be identified in this study and all comments you make will be made anonymous. The only exception to this is if you report any behaviour which poses an immediate risk of harm to yourself or someone else. If we are concerned about the risk of harm, we will speak with your case manager to work on a strategy to reduce the risk.
- If you disclose to us that you are experiencing violence or feeling unsafe, we can work with you to explore options for safety.
- If we try to contact you by phone and somebody else answers, we will not provide any information about the nature of the project. In reporting the findings of the interviews, we will not use your name or the names of others. Any other unique details that could be used to identify you will be changed.
- The overall reporting of results will not use the real names of individuals, and any identifying information will be removed. For example, if you name a location, we will not use the name of the location in the report.
- In compliance with the University of Melbourne Code of Conduct for Research, the data will be retained for a minimum of 5 years after publication and securely destroyed at the end of that time. During the project data will be stored on a secure drive only accessible by the researchers.
- The results from this study may be utilised in presentations at conferences and publication in academic journals.

Copy of report

- At your request, you can have a copy of any public report of the project on completion of the research.

Further information

You can contact the researchers by phone (ph: 8344 5159) or email (womenshealth-study@unimelb.edu.au)

Should you have any concerns about the conduct of the researchers, you are welcome to contact the Department of Justice, Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics. See contact details below.

Department of Justice, Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics	PH: 03 9136 2100, OR EMAIL: ethics@justice.vic.gov.au Ethics number: CF/23/26567
University of Melbourne, Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, Human Research Ethics	PH: 8344 1376, OR EMAIL: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au Ethics number: 29247

If you need further support

[Beyondblue](#) (mental health support)

Ph. 1300 22 4636

[1800RESPECT](#) (24h Sexual assault & domestic violence support)

Ph. 1800737732 (24h)

[Sexual Assault Crisis Line](#) (Victorian after hours support)

Ph. 1800 806 292

[Safe Steps](#) (24/7 Victorian family violence response)

Ph. 1800 015 188

[Lifeline](#) (crisis support)

Ph. 13 11 14 (24h)

Informed Consent

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE RESEARCHER

- I have read the Plain Language and Informed Consent information and the nature and purpose of the research project has been explained to me. I understand and agree to take part.
- I understand the purpose of the research project and my involvement in it.
- I understand that I may withdraw from the research project before the data is processed (eg within one week of participating in each component).
- Participation in the research or not participating will not affect my service from this agency now or in the future.
- I understand that my partner/ (ex-) partner will not be told about whether I participate or not, and if I participate, the researchers will not share with my partner/ (ex-) partner any information from my interviews.
- I understand that the researchers will not tell the workers associated with the program about whether I participate or not, unless I consent for them to be told, or there is an immediate risk of harm.
- I understand the interview data will be kept in a secure location at the Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne (using password protected files, encrypted storage, and locked filing cabinets). The project data and records will be kept for a minimum of five years after publication, or public release, of the work of the project. It will be then destroyed according to university guidelines.
- I understand that information gained during the study may be published but I will not be identified.
- I understand that if I choose to do the interviews, they will be audio recorded.

Would you like a copy of the report of this project? Please circle: YES / NO

If marked 'YES', what is the best way to contact you to send the report (telephone, postal address or email address)?

First Name of Participant: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

[Researcher to complete if participant signature cannot be obtained]:

I verify that I have read out loud and spoken about the information on the plain language statement with the research participant. I have obtained verbal consent from the participant to proceed.

Name of Researcher: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for your involvement.

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Mandy on WomensHealth-Study@unimelb.edu.au or 8344 5159