



**Pathway
for Change**

Information for Family Safety Advocates

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 David Gallant, Mr Nico Mosso Tupper, 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:

- The impact and effectiveness of the program for participants, (ex)partners and children.
- The support needs of clients or their children before, during or after the program.
- Current program fidelity and evaluation processes.

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

Who benefits from this project:

While you may not benefit directly from participating in the project, your feedback, and comments about your involvement as a family safety advocate in the program will assist in developing meaningful short and long-term program outcome evaluation measures.

Project outcomes:

- To produce monitoring and evaluation tools that measure effectiveness of programs to reduce acts of family violence and coercive and controlling behaviour.
- Knowledge about the program impact and potential benefits of the program from the perspective of perpetrators, (ex)partners, and other program facilitators

What you need to know about being involved

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to participate in a 45-minute interview or focus group to talk about your experiences and perceptions of behaviour change programs, family safety advocacy work, and how it assists the current or former partners of program participants.

What if I change my mind?

- Participation in the research is voluntary and the researcher will ask for your consent before you participate.
- You are free to withdraw at any stage, and you may request to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied. This is usually up to 1 week after an interview.

What about my privacy?

- 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 (meaning we will not share your interview recording with anyone other than the research team and the transcription service).
- If you are involved in a focus group, other people involved will know what you say.
- We will protect your privacy so that you will not be identified in this study and all comments you make will be made anonymous. For example, we will not use people’s real names, and we will remove any identifying information such as the name of a location or a program.
- If we choose to use information that might be identifying, we will ask your permission first.
- We intend to fully protect the confidentiality of your responses within the limits of the law. 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 refer you to your manager to work on a strategy to reduce the risk.
- You do not have to answer any question that makes you feel uncomfortable. If there is a question you do not want to respond to you can ask to pass the question and the interviewer will move on to the next question.
- 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

Should you require any further information, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Diemer kdiemer@unimelb.edu.au. Should you have any concerns about the conduct of the researchers, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics, The University of Melbourne, see contact details below.

PROJECT TEAM

Chief investigator	Dr Kristin Diemer, k.diemer@unimelb.edu.au Associate Professor, Department of Social Work School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
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Program Manager	Jess Letch; Jessica.Letch@unimelb.edu.au Department of Social Work School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Ms Mandy McKenzie, mckenzie.a@unimelb.edu.au Research Fellow, Department of General Practice School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Dr David Rose, drose@unimelb.edu.au Associate professor, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Dr David Gallant, david.gallant@unimelb.edu.au Lecturer, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Mr Nico Mosso Tupper, nico.mossotupper@unimelb.edu.au Research assistant, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Dr Laura Tarzia, laura.tarzia@unimelb.edu.au Associate professor, Department of General Practice School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Dr Heshani DeSilva, heshanisamantha.desilva@unimelb.edu.au Research assistant, Department of General Practice School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
Researcher	Ms Jasmine Isobe, isobe.j@unimelb.edu.au Research assistant, Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

RESEARCH ETHICS CONTACT DETAILS

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, Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics	PH: 83442073, OR EMAIL: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au Ethics number: 29247

Informed Consent

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE RESEARCHER

1. 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.
2. I understand the purpose of the research project and my involvement in it.
3. I understand that I may withdraw from the research project before the data is processed (eg within one week of participating in each component).
4. Participation in the research or not participating will not affect my employment now or in the future.
5. I understand that my manager and other staff will not be told about whether I participate or not, and if I participate, unless I consent for them to be told, or there is an immediate risk of harm.
6. The researchers will not share with my workplace any information from my interview. The exception to this is if I participate in a focus group discussion with other people from my workplace.
7. 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.
8. I understand that information gained during the study may be published but I will not be identified.
9. I understand that if I choose to participate, interviews and focus group discussions 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.