

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM FOR INTERVIEWS

Qualitative research with victim survivors of sexual violence and domestic and family violence in the ACT

We are sharing the following information with you as you indicated to a service provider that you may be interested in sharing feedback on your experiences with crisis response services in the ACT.

If you don't want to be included in this research, you do not have to, and this choice will not affect your relationship with any service providers in the ACT. If you do decide to participate and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time.

Who is conducting the research?

Social Ventures Australia is conducting the research. Social Ventures Australia works with organisations to measure their impact and ensure their services meet the needs of the people they support.

The core research team from Social Ventures Australia consists of two consultants, Hanna Cihal and Mandy Ferguson.

What is this project about?

We are conducting this research to learn about your experiences with the sexual violence, and domestic and family violence crisis response systems in the ACT.

We will use what we hear to inform our recommendations to the ACT Government and other organisations involved in crisis response in the Territory.

The ACT Government is funding this research, as part of a Review of the sexual violence, and domestic and family violence crisis response systems.

What does it involve?

If you choose to take part, it will involve two interviews that will be held online using Zoom or another online service.

We will begin the interviews by asking for your consent to continue and we will request your permission to record the interview. If you provide permission, an audio recording will be taken and transcribed using voice translation software. The recording will then be destroyed, and the transcription saved on SVA's secure network.

The first interview will be held between early to mid-October 2023 and will run for around one hour.

We'll ask about your experiences with crisis response services in the ACT. The questions will include:

You were referred to us by Doris Women's Refuge could you tell us around what time you were engaged with them and what kinds of services you received from them?

Did you interact with any other organisations during this same time? (Such as Legal Aid or Victim Support ACT)

- *Was the support you received from the crisis response services helpful?*
- *What was most helpful about it?*
- *Did you get the support that you needed?*
- *Was there any support that you needed, but were unable to get through the crisis services?*
- *Was there anything that didn't work well, in terms of your interactions with the crisis service/s?*

During the interview, we won't ask you to share details about the experiences that led to you contacting the crisis response services - we'll only ask you about your experiences working with the crisis response services.

If you do choose to share more information about the experiences that led to you contacting the crisis service, this information will be kept confidential.

The second interview will be held in a couple 2023 and will run for from 30 minutes to an hour.

At the start of the interview, we'll describe some of the changes that we're planning to recommend to the ACT Government and some of the practical changes that these recommendations might lead to.

We'll also give you a short, written summary of the recommendations and some time (up to 15 minutes) to read or have them read to you, to ask questions and think about them. When you're ready, we'll be interested in hearing what you think about the recommendations.

Our questions might include:

- *If these changes had been in place when you sought crisis support, do you think that would have made your experience more positive?*
- *Do you think these are the most important changes needed? Is there anything else you'd like to see changed in the future?*
- *Do you think there is any way that these changes could have a negative impact for victim survivors?*

What happens if I decide to participate?

If you decide to take part in this research, we'll give you more detail about what it will involve, including when both interviews are likely to happen. We'll work with you to arrange a day and time that works for you to do the interviews online or in person – this will be your choice.

You're welcome to have a support person with you at both interviews. This person can be anyone who you would like to be present. If you'd like, we can arrange for someone from one of the service providers, including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Victim Support ACT, to be there to support you.

At the end of both interviews, you will be offered the opportunity to speak with a practitioner from Victim Support ACT, or another service, including someone you already know from the Domestic Violence Crisis Service or Canberra Rape Crisis Centre.

Do I have to take part in this project?

You can choose to be a part of this project. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to and this will not affect your relationship with any service providers in the ACT, or with the ACT Government. If you do decide to participate and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time. If you do decide to withdraw from the research, you can request that all or specific parts of your information not be used.

Are there any risks involved?

The information that you share during the interviews will be stored securely and made anonymous. The research team will not include any personal information about you in the report. The research team will work to prevent any risk that you could be identified. For example, if the team are considering using a quote in the report, they will check with you prior to doing so; and elements of your story that could be used to identify you will be left out. If you think that your situation may be risky in this way, please let us know.

Given the interview involves topics related to violence, your participation may also cause you to feel uncomfortable or distressed. In this case, you can easily let us know and we will stop, take a break or postpone the interview at any time. You can choose to have a support worker or other support person present during the interview, and you will be offered to be given support from a counsellor or support worker afterwards also.

You can also contact the following organisations separately if you prefer:

- Beyondblue aims to increase awareness of depression and anxiety and reduce stigma. Call 1300 22 4636 or visit <https://online.beyondblue.org.au/#/chat/start> for the webchat.

- Lifeline provides 24-hour crisis counselling, support groups and suicide prevention services. Call 13 11 14 or Text 0477 13 11 14 at night.

Are there any benefits?

The information you share will help to improve understanding of victim survivors' experiences with sexual violence, and domestic and family violence crisis service providers in the ACT. The information you share will help the researchers to identify what is most important to people who need support.

You will receive gift vouchers to the value of \$50 per hour (meaning \$50 for the first hour or part hour) for your participation in each of the interviews.

Information and your privacy

We're very careful with the information you share with us. With your permission, the information you share with us will be recorded and stored on file securely, in line with Social Ventures Australia's IT Security and Privacy Policies. Your participation in the interviews will be confidential and interview records will only be available to Social Ventures Australia.

An overview of the themes that we hear through the interviews will be collected into a short report. You will not be named in this report and care will be taken to make sure your information is not shared or reported in a way that people will be able to identify you.

The report may include short quotes where permission has been granted – if the research team are considering using a quote in the report, they will check with you prior to doing so. The only information about you that service providers will have will be the contact details that they share during recruitment and if you decide that you would like their support during or after the interviews. Further information relating to the choices you make, or the content of interviews will not be shared with providers. In short - the providers are not conducting the interviews and they will not have access to identifiable information.

The research team has set up processes and rules relating to your information and privacy. If you'd like more details about this – please contact the research team (SVA, details below).

How and when will I find out the results of the project?

An overview of the themes that we hear during the interviews will be collected into a short report that will be shared with you. It will be distributed to a range of organisations involved in crisis response, and there is potential that the report may be made public at some point in time. The report will be shared with you directly or if preferred, through your connection at a service provider.

An overview of the Review, including recommendations, will be shared at the completion of the project. It will also be distributed to a range of organisations involved in crisis response but is not expected to be made public. This will also be shared with you directly or if preferred, through your connection at a service provider.

Ethics approval

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) incorporating all updates. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the Complaints Procedure with someone not directly involved, you may contact the Operations Manager, Bellberry Limited on 08 8361 3222.

Consent

Informed consent means that you have been given information about the key facts of the research before deciding whether to take part, that you understand the information given to you, and that you voluntarily agree (without any pressure) to take part.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign the consent form. The consent form is not a contract, and you may change your mind at any time without losing any of your normal rights. You can withdraw consent at

any time up until the final report and if you decide that you no longer want your interview information used, you can ask for all or specific parts of the information to not be shared (e.g. quotes). If there are any changes to the study, you will be kept informed and you may be asked to give your consent again before continuing with the study.

Signing the consent form means that you:

- understand the information you have read about the research.
- consent to take part in the research.
- consent to the activities described in the participant information and consent form.
- consent that your personal information can be accessed by the researchers.
- will receive a signed copy of this sheet.

What happens to information about me?

If you sign the consent form, you are agreeing that the researchers may record and use information about you in the ways they have described in the document. The information collected during your interviews will be stored securely and made anonymous, so will not identify you. If you share it during your interviews, the stored information may include some detail about your experiences now and/or in the past. You can withdraw consent at any time up until the final report and if you decide that you no longer want your interview information used, you can ask for all or specific parts of the information to not be shared (such as quotes).

You don't have to participate in this project. It is your choice.

We want to make sure you are comfortable with the information you provide. You can stop participating in the project at any time without an explanation and this will not affect your relationship with any of the crisis service providers in the ACT or with the ACT Government. You can also skip any questions if you do not want to answer it.

We have provided a consent form below and are happy to talk to you about this if you want. If there is anything you are uncomfortable with, please let us know.

You can also contact us (the research team) with any feedback or questions:

Social Ventures Australia

- Mandy Ferguson
 - mferguson@socialventures.com.au
 - Ph: 0424514591
- Hanna Cihal
 - hcihal@socialventures.com.au
 - Ph: 0415 060 890

You can also contact the government department funding this research if you have any feedback or questions:

ACT Community Services Directorate

- Juliette Ford, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office
 - Juliette.Ford@act.gov.au
 - Ph: 02 6207 9794

CONSENT FORM FOR INTERVIEWS

Qualitative research with victim survivors of sexual violence and domestic and family violence

I _____ [participant's name] agree to participate in the research project being conducted by Social Ventures Australia. I understand that funding for this research has been provided by the ACT Government Community Services Directorate.

- I have read the Participant Information Sheet myself, or someone has supported me to read and understand the Participant Information Sheet.
- I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research as described in the Participant Information Sheet.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.
- I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time without affecting my relationship with the researchers, providers or government personnel.
- I understand that I am free to withdraw consent for use of all or part of the information I share in the interviews, and this also applies if I withdraw from the interviews at any stage.
- I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.
- I am aware that I can contact Social Ventures Australia, or the ACT Community Services Directorate on the contact details provided if I have any concerns about the research.
- I am aware that the researchers will ensure that any comments (if used) will be anonymised and stripped of identifying elements.
- I understand that my involvement in this study may not be of any direct benefit to me.
- I am 18 years or older.
- I **do/do not** consent for the researchers to record the interview (please circle your preference).

___/___/___

Name and Signature [participant]

Date

___/___/___

Name and Signature [SVA researcher]

Date