MONASH University

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Survivor experiences with law enforcement

Project ID: 44187

Associate Professor Bridget Harris on behalf of the team
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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.

What is the aim of the research?

We (researchers from the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre) are completing a project on victim-survivors who have experienced family, domestic or sexual violence and have engaged with police.

This might be by:

- contacting police yourself,
- another family member or known person (partner, friend etc.) contacting police,
- an unknown third party contacted police - police contacted you because of a report made by an someone who is not identified to you,
- another agency referral (e.g. Child Protection; family, domestic or sexual violence service, etc.).

It could involve generalist police officer (frontline, uniformed) or specialist police officer (police with a specific area of focus e.g. police whose role is focused on responding to family, domestic or sexual violence; or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander liaison officers)

You are welcome to talk about a single or multiple interactions with police, and recent interactions, or an interaction from years ago.

What does participation involve?

Your participation will involve taking part in a virtual focus group (run using the Zoom platform) or, if you are a First Nations victim-survivor, taking part in a virtual (run using the Zoom platform) or in person yarning circle. The session will be approximately one hour. We need to audio record the session, so please decline if you would prefer not to participate in a recorded session. We do have an anonymous online portal that you use, if you prefer, click here: https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IGgyOYzU8mcp6e

We will discuss your experiences, perceptions and views about police responses to family, domestic or sexual violence.

Why were you invited for this research?

You are invited to participate in this study because you have identified as an adult aged 15 years or older who has experienced family, domestic or sexual violence and interacted with police in relation to these matters.

Source of funding

The research project is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can verbally, (after being read the consent questions)_ in the session. Or, you can return the consent form prior to the focus group or yarning circle. The audio recordings will be deleted following verification and deidentification of transcription.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from participation in the focus group or yarning circle without comment or penalty anytime during the focus group or up to two weeks afterward. If you decide you want to withdraw, please contact the team at the project email (ConnectingWithLivedExperience@monash.edu). Any information already obtained that can be linked to you will be destroyed. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with Monash University, the Attorney General's Department or any other agency.

Possible benefits

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of the research, however, may benefit how the Attorney General's Department develops police training and policing policy and practice responses to family, domestic and sexual violence.

Possible risks

Because we will be talking about your experiences with police in relation to family, domestic or sexual violence, you might get upset when reflecting on your experiences and talking about this topic. If you get upset during the focus group or yarning circle, you can leave or take a break any time at your request. We will have breakout rooms or areas where you can step out from the focus group or yarning circle, and a lived experience researcher will join you, if you would like. We will discuss how you would like us to handle that situation before starting the focus group or yarning circle and we will follow your advice.

You can also decline to answer any questions you don't want to answer.

Services on offer if adversely affected

1800RESPECT (**1800 737 732**) is a confidential 24 hour, 7 day a week, counselling and referral service for people who have experienced sexual assault, domestic and family violence or abuse. It provides information, referral and counselling.

Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. For people aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

Payment

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate, the Attorney-General's Department is offering you a $50 honorarium.

Confidentiality
Your information will be kept strictly confidential. The names of individual persons are not required in any of the focus group or yarning circles and identifying information will be removed from the audio transcripts of the sessions. Pseudonyms will be used to identify participant comments instead of real names.

As the research project involves an audio recording:

- Your name will not be included in or connected to the recording in any way
- The recording will be destroyed following verification and de-identification transcription.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- Only the named researchers and professional transcriber will have access to the recording.
- It is not possible to participate in the research project without being recorded.

A professional transcriber will not have access to your name or any other identifying information.

All transcripts will be de-identified, meaning that any identifying characteristics of participants will be removed to ensure confidentiality. Therefore, it is not possible to send you an individual transcript. However, you can elect to receive a summary of the workshop.

We ask that you respect the privacy of other participants and treat their contributions as confidential.

Storage of data

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per Monash University's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it. Data will be securely stored on Monash drivers, with hard copies consent forms stored in locked cabinets in the researcher's office, for a minimum of 5 years after completion of the project, and destroyed when no longer required.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, but not any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded.

Results

There will be open access outputs available on the project website. For more information about this, you can contact the project email: ConnectingWithLivedExperience@monash.edu

Complaints
Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus
Research Office
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you,

Associate Professor Bridget Harris on behalf of the team

Please read the notes below. Alternatively, they can be read to you. They tell you what to expect and what your rights are if you agree to take part in this research. If you have any questions, please ask us.

Who is doing this research?

The names of the research team are:

Bridget Harris, Naomi Pfitzner, Jasmine McGowan, Kyllie Cripps, Emily Berger, Lily Fetter, Kym Valentine, Hannah Fahour *Monash University*

Marlene Longbottom, Vinnitta Mosby *James Cook University*

Hannah McGlade *Curtin University*

Why is the study being conducted?

This project is funded by the Attorney General's Department. They are an organisation that advises on how government agencies, like police, operate. They want to guide how police respond to family, domestic or sexual violence.

The purpose of this project is to find out about your experiences with police, after you have been harmed (by families, partners) or sexual harms you experienced.

What will happen in the research?

- You can choose if you want to take part or not.

- We want to hear about your experiences with police, and what was good or bad, in your view. The kinds of questions we will ask will be about the officers, what they did, how you felt about that, and if they helped.

- A focus group will be held with two members of the research team. The focus group will be recorded and will take place on Zoom. It will take around one hour.

- You can refuse to answer any question and can stop being part of this research at any time or withdraw anything you have said at the time or later. If you decide not to be part of the research it will not change your relationship with our team or any other service or agency.

- You will be able to review a summary of the focus group or have someone read it to you, if you want.

- If you decide after the focus group that you do not want to be part of the project you have two weeks to let us know about your decision.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

- This research may not help you directly, but we will use what you tell us will guide how the Attorney General's Department train police and make suggestions about how police respond to other victim-survivors.

- We will give you a $50 voucher for your help with the research. You will be able to keep this voucher even if you leave the focus group before it ends.

- We will provide a summary of the research findings to you after the project has finished.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

- There may be some risk that talking how police responded after you were harmed might make you feel upset. If you would like, you can have a support person in the focus group with you and you will be able to stop at any time.

- Before the focus group starts, we will talk with you about what you would like us to do if you feel upset during the session. You may want to have a sign for us to stop, such as raising your hand. Or you might want to take a break and then decide to keep talking to us.

- There are links to support services you can access: 1800RESPECT provide support for people who have experienced violence and abuse. We will also tell you about other support services in the focus group

What about privacy and confidentiality?

- We will not tell anyone else what has been said in the focus group and what you say will only be used for the research.

- You will be asked to keep anything that anyone else says in the group private.

- During the focus group if we feel that you are at risk of harming yourself, or if someone is hurting you, we may have to tell someone about our concerns. We will talk with you if we were worried about this.

-The focus group notes and copy of a consent form (if you want to use this instead of verbally agreeing to participate) will be kept in a safe place with only the research team having access to them.

- What you tell us will be stored securely as per Monash's data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be shared with others if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

-A report will be written and will be made public. Real names will not be used in any reports and anything which might suggest who you are will be changed. Things said in the focus group may be quoted in a written report but your real name will not be given nor will any details which might suggest who you are, or who others are, or the name of any services you talk about.

- Any personal information that might identify you will be removed or changed before files are shared with other researchers or results are made public. The information that will be removed includes your name, where you live, any other personal details you tell us such as the name of the person who made you feel afraid.

As the research project involves an audio recording:

- The recording will be kept for 5 years after the last research activity.

- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.

- Only the research team will have access to the recording.

- The funders will not have access to any data.

How do I give my consent to participant

You can either tell us (verbally) after we read you questions about participating in the research or, you can return a written consent form *before* the focus group.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

Bridget (bridget.harris@monash.edu, 03 9905 2962)

Naomi (naomi.pftizner@monash.edu

Our project email address: ConnectingWithLivedExperience@monash.edu

What if I have a concern or complaint about the research project?

If you feel upset or worried about how the research team has treated you, or concerned about the way the focus group ran, or you want to speak to someone about the research ethics, you can contact:

the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):
Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus
Research Office
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.