



Explanatory Statement

호주 빅토리아주 별거 혹은 이혼 경험 이주 여성 연구 참여자 모집
研究インタビュー参加者募集(ビクトリア州在住の日本人女性対象)
招募维多利亚州的研究参与者

Project Information

Project ID: 44491

Project Title: Investigating the Hidden Costs of Family Separation: Pathways to Targeted Support for East Asian Women and Children in Australia

Chief Investigator: Dr Iori Hamada

Email: iori.hamada@monash.edu

Phone: 03-9905-8015

Co-investigator: Dr Hyein Ellen Cho

Email: ellen.cho@monash.edu

Phone: 03-9905-5751

Research Assistant: Dr Shu Zhu

Email: shu.zhu@monash.edu

Invitation to Participate

You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether to participate. If you need further information about any aspect of this project, please contact the researchers via the phone number or email listed above.

What Does the Research Involve?

This research project aims to explore the post-crisis recovery experiences of East Asian migrant women in Australia, particularly focusing on the challenges and empowerment strategies following family separation or divorce. The study seeks to understand the hardships faced, the support systems required, and the empowerment pathways that these women and their children navigate in the aftermath of separation.

Please note that when we refer to 'family separation', we are specifically addressing separation from partners (or, in cases of lost child custody, separation from children). This does not refer to separation from parents due to moving to a new country.

Why Were You Invited to Participate?

You were invited to participate because of your experience as an East Asian woman who has gone through a divorce or family separation in Australia. If you agree to participate, you will take part in a 45-60- minute interview where you can share your personal experiences, challenges and insights related to your journey of recovery and empowerment. The interview can be scheduled at your convenience online using Zoom.

Who you are meeting with for an interview

You will be meeting with either Iori Hamada (Japanese/English), Hyein Ellen Cho (Korean/English), or Shu Zhu (Chinese/English), depending on your preferred language. If English is your preferred language, you'll be likely to meet with one of the researchers.

Consenting to Participate and Withdrawing from the Research for Interview

1. Consent Process: Please sign and return the consent form via email.
2. Right to Withdraw: You can withdraw from the research at any stage during the interview without penalty. However, please note that once your data has been processed (approximately two weeks after your interview), it will no longer be possible to withdraw your consent. If you wish to withdraw, please inform the research team via email or phone before this processing period.
3. Implications of Withdrawal: Withdrawing from the study will not affect your relationship with the organisation or the researchers.

Possible Benefits and Risks to Participants

1. Benefits:
 - o **Contribution to Knowledge:** Your participation will help improve understanding of the recovery processes and support systems needed for East Asian women and children in Australia who experience family separation or divorce.
 - o **Shaping Support Services:** Findings may influence the development of better community support services and policies tailored to the needs of East Asian women and their children.
 - o **Voucher:** As a token of appreciation for your time and participation, you will receive a \$50 voucher for an interview.
2. Risks:
 - o **Time Commitment:** The interview will take approximately 45-60 minutes.
 - o **Confidentiality Concerns:** Confidentiality will be maintained, but discussing personal experiences might raise concerns. All data will be anonymised.
 - o **Emotional Discomfort:** Sensitive topics related to personal experiences of separation or divorce may arise. You can skip questions or withdraw at any time.

Compensation

In appreciation of your participation, you will receive a \$50 voucher. There is no additional financial compensation for participating in this research.

Confidentiality

All information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Interviews will be anonymized to ensure personal details do not appear in any reports or publications resulting from this study.

Support

In Victoria, there is a community responsibility by law that if there is suspicion or knowledge that a child (under the age of 16 years) is or has been sexually abused, the child needs to be made safe from further harm. If you think your child is at risk of harm from abuse or neglect, please contact the Child Protection Intake Service covering the local government area (LGA) where the child normally resides.

Telephone numbers to make a report during business hours (8.45am -5.00pm), Monday to Friday, are listed below.

- North Division intake: 1300 664 977

- South Division intake: 1300 655 795
- East Division intake: 1300 360 391
- West Division intake - metropolitan: 1300 664 977
- West Division intake - rural and regional: 1800 075 599

To report concerns about the immediate safety of a child after hours (5.00pm – 9.00am Monday-Friday, 24 hours on weekends and public holidays), call the After Hours Child Protection Emergency Service on 13 12 78.

To arrange an interpreter:

- Call the child protection intake service covering the LGA where the child normally resides and ask for a Korean interpreter, or
- Call TIS on 131 450 and ask them to contact the child protection intake service.

During the interview, if there is belief or knowledge by the interviewer that your child is or has been sexually abused, the interviewer is required to make a report to the police as soon as it is practicable to do so. This will be carried out in a confidential manner.

Storage of Data

1. Physical Data Storage: Printed questionnaires or consent forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the Chief Investigator's office (W511) and Co-Investigator's office (W528) at the university, accessible only to the Chief Investigator, Co-investigator and designated Research Assistant.
2. Electronic Data Storage: Digital data, including audio recordings of interviews, will be securely stored on a university-approved cloud service (Google Drive) to ensure data integrity and prevent loss.

Mandatory Reporting

This research focuses on the experiences of East Asian migrant women and children in the context of family separation and divorce. While child sexual abuse is not the primary focus, if such information emerges during interviews, the research team is legally required to report it to authorities under Australian mandatory reporting laws.

Clear protocols, including immediate reporting, safety and well-being, confidentiality with legal limits and documentation, are in place for handling such disclosures, ensuring immediate reporting and prioritising the safety of the child. You will be informed during the consent process that any disclosures of child sexual abuse cannot remain confidential and must be reported. The safety of you and your children is our top priority, and we are committed to meeting our legal obligations.

Use of Data for Other Purposes

The data collected in this study may also be used for future research projects. However, please be assured that only aggregate, de-identified data will be used for any additional studies. This means that your personal information will be removed, and the data will be combined with that of other participants, ensuring that individual responses cannot be traced back to you. Any future use of the data will be

contingent upon receiving the necessary ethics approval. This ensures that your privacy and confidentiality are maintained at all times.

Results

The results of this study will be made available through the university's website and relevant scholarly publications. Participants will be notified via email upon request once the findings are published and will be provided with links to access the full reports.

Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, please 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 considering participating in this important study. Your insights could help shape better community support and policies for East Asian women and their children experiencing separation or divorce.



Iori Hamada
Chief-investigator



Hyein Ellen Cho
Co-investigator