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|  | **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT**  **– Interview/Group interview –** |
| **Victims/Survivors’ Perspectives on Sex Offender Reintegration: A Mixed Methods Study**  **QUT Ethics Approval Number 3906** | |

**Research team**

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| Principal Researcher: | Professor Kelly Richards  **School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology**  [**K1.richards@qut.edu.au**](mailto:K1.richards@qut.edu.au) |
| Associate Researcher(s): | Associate Professor Jodi Death |
|  | **School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology** |
|  | Dr Michael Chataway, Senior Lecturer  **School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology**  Christopher Emzin, Director, Indigenous Engagement  **School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology**  Ms. Carol Ronken  **Bravehearts Foundation**  Dr Rebekah Chapman  **Bravehearts Foundation** |

**Why is the study being conducted?**

This project is being undertaken by a team of researchers in the School of Justice at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in collaboration with the Bravehearts Foundation, Queensland.

The purpose of this project is to better understand victims/survivors’ views about sex offender reintegration and the management of sex offenders within the community. This study will contribute new knowledge about victims/survivors’ opinions of sex offender reintegration and provide guidance to policy makers.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you are a victim/survivor of sexual violence and are aged 15 years or over and live in Australia.

**What does participation involve?**

Your participation will involve an audio recorded interview in person OR via telephone that will take approximately 1 hour of your time. Interviews may be conducted on your own or in a small group, depending on your preference.

Questions asked during the interview will focus on your reasons for either supporting or not supporting a variety of sex offender reintegration measures such as electronic monitoring, support services and offender registration. We will provide you with a list of the questions before your interview, so you know what to expect.

Your participation in this interview is entirely **voluntary**. You are not required to seek consent from a parent/guardian to participate in this research. As a general rule, an individual under the age of 18 has the capacity to consent if they have the maturity to understand all relevant information pertaining to the project and their participation. Please note that all participants under the age of 18 will be assessed for competency to consent by an interviewer. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw anytime during the interview or up to two weeks afterward if you decide you don't want your interview to be used by contacting the Chief Investigator below. However, if you take part in a group interview, you will be unable to withdraw from the research as it will not be possible to delete your voice from a recording of multiple voices. You will be able to skip questions you don’t wish to answer and to stop participating any time during a group interview.

Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT or with Bravehearts Foundation. Prior to commencement of the interview, all participants will be asked to verbally state the requirements of participation in the study, to verify your understanding of the project aims, expectations of participation, and your responsibilities as a participant in the current study.

**In Person Interviews and COVID-19.** Due to the circumstances associated with COVID-19, the research team will implement the following plan for any in-person interviews that may occur during the project. This plan has been informed by Queensland Government Public Health Directions (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions>).

* At all times during the interview a 1.5 metre distance will be maintained between interviewer and interviewee.
* Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes will be provided at each in-person interview. Participants are encouraged to user sanitiser before commencement of the interview.
* Depending on future public health directions, participants may be required to wear a mask if the interview occurs in a public, indoor venue.
* Participants must inform the principal researcher if they have experienced any symptoms of COVID 19, prior to the interview, so that the interview can be rescheduled.
* In circumstances where multiple interviews are undertaken in the same room, on the same day; regular cleaning of equipment/furniture in the room will occur after each participant (i.e., wiping down tables and chairs).

**Indigenous Participants.** If you are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, you can request to be interviewed by an Indigenous member of the research team. Please advise the Principal Investigator, if you would like to request to be interviewed by an Indigenous member of the research team by email or phone (details below).

**Support Persons and Translators.** All participants are permitted to have a support person present during the interview and/or translator. Please note, that any support person or translator present during an interview will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before commencement of the interview. If you would like to have a support person or translator present, please contact the Principal Investigator by email or phone (details below) to organise a confidentiality agreement form to be sent to your nominated support person and/or translator. Participants who require translation, will need to arrange for their own translator to be present at the interview.

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

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of the research, however, may benefit societal responses to the management of sex offenders and reintegration policies.

Participants can request a free copy of the summary report of this research by contacting the Principal Investigator (contact details below).

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

There are significant risks associated with your participation in this research project. These include significant discomfort from the types of questions being asked during the interview. To manage these risks, we wish to notify participants of counselling services available, should they need/require support (see below). Participants are also allowed to have a support person available during the interview but must note that this support person must sign a confidentiality agreement. If you take part in a group interview, a representative of a support organisation will be present to support you if you feel upset during or after the interview.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, for participants living outside of Brisbane, Lifeline provides access to online or phone support, call **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. If you are under 25 years of age, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

Participants who require support and who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, may also wish to call **13YARN** for free, confidential support and counselling from qualified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander mental health professionals, and/or seek online counselling via the following services listed by WellMob <https://wellmob.org.au/key-resources/organisations/>.

**What about privacy and confidentiality?**

Any personal information that could potentially 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 any reference to your name in the interview, the names of other people, or details of specific events. Participants will be reminded at the beginning of the interview to not state their name or the name/s of others. The interviewer will also not address the participant by their name during the interview.

If you take part in a group interview, you will be required to maintain the other participants’ confidentiality at all times.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT’s Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 15 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.

As the research project involves an **audio** recording (with your verbal consent):

* You will have the opportunity to verify your comments and responses prior to final inclusion.
* The recording will be retained for the minimum retention period of 15 years after the last research activity.
* The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
* Only the named researchers will have access to the recording.
* It is possible to participate in a one-on-one interview, but not a group interview, without being recorded.

The interviewer may also take notes during the interview. Participants will be provided with a copy of any notes that are taken by the interviewer, at their request.

Participants have the right to discuss co-ownership of their data and any shared copyright of published and recorded works, where applicable. Participants can contact the Principal Investigator (see below contact details) for further information or to discuss any copyright arrangements.

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, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded.

The research project is funded by the Australian Institute of Criminology, and they will not have access to the data obtained during the project.

Please note that information you provide for this study may also be used in future studies to further shape policy and practice in the same way as outlined in this document (ie your information will remain confidential and will not be used by anyone outside the research team. The information you provide will be used in publications such as reports to government agencies and journal articles).

**How do I give my consent to participate?**

On the day of the interview, you will be asked to provide verbal consent before the commencement of questions. Your consent will be audio recorded and securely stored. If you do not wish to be recorded, your consent will be recorded securely in a password protected spreadsheet. Please note, that participants under the age of 18 will be assessed for competency to consent by an interviewer.

**What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions, require further information or would like to take part in an interview, please contact the Principal Researcher:

Professor Kelly Richards [k1.richards@qut.edu.au](mailto:k1.richards@qut.edu.au) +61 7 3138 7125

**What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

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