

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

STUDY TITLE: Pilot Project: Towards a victim-centred approach to listening

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

This is an invitation to be a part of a research project investigating listening practices in the recent Queensland Law Reform Commission Review of consent laws and the excuse of mistake of fact. The research project is particularly focused on how women's voices were heard, listened to and responded to by the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Women are often asked to contribute their voices to inquiries into how the law should change to address and prevent violence against women. This project aims to better understand how women contribute their voices, and how their voices are listened and responded to within law reform processes. We aim to develop a victim-centred approach to listening to improve law reform for all women. We will also be interviewing academics and advocacy groups who contributed to the QLRC Review.

We are a research team from the University of Wollongong, Swinburne University and Rape & Sexual Assault Research & Advocacy (RASARA).

RESEARCHERS:

Dr Sarah Ailwood , University of Wollongong

Prof Nan Seuffert, University of Wollongong

Dr Rachel Loney-Howes, University of Wollongong

Dr Rachael Burgin, (RASARA) and Swinburne University

Research Team

CONTACT DETAILS:

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WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?

If you choose to take part in this research, you will be asked to do a short (40-60 minutes) Zoom interview with one of the researchers (Dr Ailwood, Prof Seuffert or Dr Loney-Howes). In these interviews, we will discuss your involvement in the Queensland Law Reform Commission Review of consent laws and the excuse of mistake of fact, in 2019-2020. Questions may explore when, why and how you became involved in the process, your overall experience of the process, and how you felt you were listened to and your contribution heard and responded to. If you prefer, we can send you a list of questions before your interview.

Some questions you might be asked include:

- How do you feel you were heard?
- How did you come to be attending the QLRC workshop?
- Can you talk us through what happened at the workshop?
- How did the QLRC people respond to what you said?
- How did you feel about the experience overall?

You can have a support person present during the interview if you wish. The interview will be audio recorded through Zoom with your consent. Please let the researchers know if you do not want to be audio recorded. There will be no video recording.

You may pause or stop the interview at any time. You may also withdraw from the research at any time during the interview. You may also withdraw from the research up to 6 weeks after the interview, by emailing or telephoning a member of the research team.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DATA?

After the interview, the audio recording will be transcribed through the Zoom program and formatted by a research assistant into a transcript. After the audio recording is transcribed, the recording will be destroyed. You can have access to the transcript if you wish, by emailing the research team: listening-project@uow.edu.au.

Your name and any information that could identify you (such as a location, school or workplace) will be removed by the UOW researchers before the data is shared with RASARA, and before any of the research is published. Where necessary, we will refer to you using a pseudonym or made-up name to keep your identity confidential. Your contribution will be confidential and there will be no identification of you in the data used by the research team (which means no one will know it was you who was interviewed). Alternatively, you can choose to use your real first and/or last names in the transcript and any research publications. This decision is completely up to you, and the research team will adhere to your wishes.

This is a pilot project, in which the research team is investigating how women's voices were listened and responded to in the QLRC law reform process. Your interview will be analysed for this pilot project, and deidentified quotes from you may be used in subsequent publications, reports, articles or presentations. The research team hopes to build on this project in the future, to develop a victim-centred approach to listening in law reform. With your consent, your interview transcript may be used in later projects, with ethics approval from the University of Wollongong. This may be in identifiable or de-identified form, depending on your selection on the Consent Form.

All information you share with us will be stored on a password protected computer that only the researchers have access to. The data collected from the study will be safeguarded subject to legal requirements for five years following the completion of the study, after which time it will be destroyed.

If you change your mind about being part of the research, you can ask for the information you gave to be removed from the research up to 6 weeks after the interview – all you need to do is contact a member of the research team (contact details above) by phone or email. Your audio

recording and transcript will be destroyed, and any information you have provided will be excluded from the research. Declining to participate or withdrawing at any time will not affect any present or future relationship you have with the researchers or with the University of Wollongong, Swinburne University or Rape & Sexual Assault Research & Advocacy (RASARA).

POSSIBLE RISKS

This interview can take 40-60 minutes of your time, which could be inconvenient. You may also experience emotional distress. Although our questions will not directly focus on an experience of sexual violence, discussing your involvement in the Queensland Law Reform Commission Review may be distressing. If you feel distressed at any time during the interview, you can stop doing it. If you feel the need to talk to someone after the interview, because you feel sad or angry or like you could hurt yourself, please contact Lifeline on the details below. If you would like confidential counselling or support in relation to sexual violence, please contact 1800 RESPECT, or another service, on the details below.

- Lifeline
Phone: 13 11 14
Website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/>
- 1800 RESPECT
Phone: 1800 737 732
Website: <https://www.1800respect.org.au/>
- Queensland Sexual Assault Helpline
Phone: 1800 010 120
Website: <https://www.dvconnect.org/sexual-assault-helpline>
- Murrigunyah Family & Cultural Healing Centre
Phone: 07 3290 4254
Website: <http://www.murrigunyah.org.au/>
- Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS)
Phone: 07 3846 3490
Website: <http://www.iwss.org.au/>
- Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre
Phone: 07 3843 1823
Website: <https://zigzag.org.au/>
- Living Well – Anglicare – for men who have experienced sexual violence
Phone: 1300 114 397
Website: <https://www.livingwell.org.au/>

As this is a small study, there may be a risk that someone reading the results of the research may be able to identify you. However, the research team will take every step to safeguard the confidentiality of your participation. Remember – you can stop being part of the interview at any time. Declining to participate or withdrawing at any time will not affect any present or future relationship you have with the researchers or with the University of Wollongong, Swinburne University or Rape & Sexual Assault Research & Advocacy (RASARA).

FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH AND WHO IT MAY HELP

This research funded by the University of Wollongong only. The project team expect that the results of the pilot project will prompt further research questions and investigation into listening practices within law reform. The research team is aiming to develop a victim-centred approach to law reform, which may improve the way that women and vulnerable groups are heard in Australian law reform processes in the future. We are happy to share the published findings of our research with you.

COMPLAINTS

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (Social Sciences) of the University of Wollongong, REF: 2021/355. The research will be monitored by the research team, who you can contact at any time if you have questions or concerns. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the way this research has been done, you can contact the UOW Ethics Manager on 02 4221 4457 or email uow-humanethics@uow.edu.au.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE

If you decide that you would like to participate, and to arrange an interview, please sign and return the Consent Form to Dr Sarah Ailwood (sailwood@uow.edu.au), or to listening-project@uow.edu.au.

Thank you for being a part of this study.