

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(Disaster survivors)

Project ID: 34447

Project title: Experiences of men, women and LGBTIQ+ people in Australian disasters

Chief Investigator: Dr Debra Parkinson

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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 researchers via the phone number or email address listed above.

What does the research involve?

This project aims:

(1) to contribute to the growing knowledge base by documenting:

- (a) How disasters affect women, men, and LGBTIQ+ people in Australia
- (b) The extent to which gender has influenced disaster survivors' risk, experience and legacy

(2) to investigate how the emergency sector can improve disaster planning, response, recovery and reconstruction by attending to gendered issues

(3) to contribute to more resilient communities through identifying and documenting:

- (a) any unrealistic expectations of people in disaster based on gender
- (b) any gender-based discrimination in disaster.

You will be asked to have an interview with one or two researchers which will take approximately one hour. The interview will be audio recorded. It can be by zoom at a time to suit you, or if the researchers are in your region, a personal interview could be arranged to suit you. You will be offered a gift certificate for \$100 for your time and effort in being available for this interview, checking your transcript when we email it back to you and checking your own quotations in a draft research report. We may need to contact you for clarification after your interview.

Why were you invited for this research?

You were invited because you are a disaster survivor and have expressed interest in this research project after hearing or reading about it.

Monash University provided initial funding for this research. Other sources of funding may be found, and will be advised to you if this is the case. There is no conflict of interest of sponsors or researchers.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

- (i) The consent process involves reading this Explanatory Statement and signing and returning the consent form
- (ii) You have the right to withdraw from further participation at any stage until the research is published, and there will be no problem in your withdrawal
- (iii) You also have the right to withdraw all or part of your interview data (the transcript).

Possible benefits and risks to participants

Research participants often appreciate the opportunity to speak with researchers and, through their involvement, improve disaster experience for others in the future. When research results are made available, both participants and communities appreciate reading the words of others who have been affected, and value the potential for improved responses in emergency management and the wider community and society. There is no inconvenience or discomfort beyond that of everyday life.

If you feel upset by the interview or discussing your disaster experience, you can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732; Men's Helpline 1300 789 978; Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491; QLife 1800 184 527.

Confidentiality

The research report will be deidentified. However, amongst disaster survivors from small rural areas, it is unlikely that people will have complete confidentiality. Disaster survivors share their accounts and, as they are part of small communities, it is possible that some people may be identifiable.

You will be given a pseudonym so your real name will not appear anywhere. You may choose to change identifying details in your transcript and/or in the research report. Future use of the research will be drawn from the research report, so no other materials will be used except that which appears in the research report that you will see and have the opportunity to amend. This applies to any future use including conference presentations, journal articles, postcards, snapshots, etc.

Payment

A gift certificate to the value of \$100 will be given to you to acknowledge your time and effort in offering your insights to this research project. There is the possibility that the research team will be required to provide the names of participants to the Monash finance team for auditing purposes. If this happens, you could not remain anonymous.

A transcription service will be chosen on the basis of the confidentiality it offers, with published privacy and security measures clearly outlined.

Storage of data

The transcripts will be returned to each research participant (interviewee) who will amend and/or approve the transcript and this will be kept until the research draft is approved by participants. Once all participants have had the opportunity to change their own information used in the research report draft, hard copies will be destroyed and electronic copies of the raw data and approved transcripts will be securely stored for 5 years on Monash computers or drives and then destroyed.

Please note that only compiled and de-identified data may be used for other projects where ethics approval has been granted.

Results

After publication of the research report and any associated book chapters or journal publications, resources or snapshots, participants will be able to access these documents through the www.genderanddisaster.com.au website or by contacting the researchers.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Parkinson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Debra Parkinson

Chief Investigator