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SWASH lesbian, bisexual and queer women's health survey 2020

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study of the health and wellbeing of women in and around lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities. Similar surveys have been conducted every two years since 1996 in Sydney (SWASH) and since 2010 in Perth (WWASH). This research provides on-going information on the general health of LGBTQ women and a body of knowledge for health promotion programs across Australia.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by ACON with assistance from researchers at The University of Sydney (Dr Julie Mooney-Somers and Dr Rachel Deacon).

(3) What does the study involve?

All cisgender and transgender women living in NSW who identify as lesbian, bisexual, queer or not-heterosexual are invited and welcome to participate. We want responses from **all women** so we can get a full picture of the health and wellbeing of women in and around LGBTQ communities.

If you decide to participate, you will complete an anonymous survey about your physical and mental health, your sexual behaviour, your tobacco, alcohol and drug use, and your experience of abuse and submit it via the online portal.

The survey is part of a unique set of data about the health and wellbeing of women in and around LGBTQ communities across Australia. Analysis of survey data has provided important and valuable information for the development of health education and health promotion campaigns across Australia. In the future, we plan to allow other researchers to access this data for further analysis; this process will be overseen by an advisory committee to make sure that any work is designed to benefit the health of women in the community.

Some survey questions could trigger memories about negative experiences or bring up distressing issues. You might like to talk about these feelings with a friend, partner or another person who understands and supports you. If you continue to feel distressed you can call **Life Line** on 13 11 14 (24 hours). From 3pm to midnight every day you can access **QLife**, a national Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) counselling and referral service on [1800 184 527](tel:1800184527) or live chat via [www.qlife.org.au](http://www qlife.org.au).

(4) How much time will the study take?

The survey is around 60 questions long and will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

(5) Can I withdraw from the study?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the survey. Submitting a completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time **prior** to submitting your completed survey. Once you have submitted your survey anonymously, your responses cannot be withdrawn.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?

The survey is completely anonymous. This means that no one will know your individual answers. Your information will be collated and analysed with information from all other participants. The findings of this study will be submitted for publication and a report published by the University of Sydney, but individual participants will not be identifiable.

(7) Will the study benefit me?

This study aims to produce information to inform health education and health promotion campaigns and improve the health outcomes and access to health care of LGBTQ people across Australia. However, we cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you personally will receive any benefits from the study.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes. Send them the link to the survey.

(9) What if I require further information about the study or my involvement in it?

If you would like to know more about the research, please feel free to contact Dr Rachel Deacon or Dr Julie Mooney-Somers using the contact details above.

(10) What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact The Manager, Human Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on +61 2 8627 8176 (Telephone); +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile) or ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au (Email).

This information sheet is for you to keep