



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (community representative interviewees)

Project ID: 52677

Project title: Designing Intergenerational Commons: Reimagining Community Facilities for Super-Diverse Casey

Chief Investigator's Details

Dr Suzanne Barker
Senior Lecturer Urban Planning and Design
Department of Architecture
Phone: 0410 341 971
email: suzanne.barker1@monash.edu

Researcher's Details

Dr Maria Daels
Research Assistance
Department of Architecture
email: maria.daels1@monash.edu

We invite you to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether to take part. If you want to learn more about this project, please contact us at the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

This research aims to understand how community facilities in the City of Casey can better support social connection in a rapidly growing and culturally diverse community. As Casey continues to experience significant population growth and increasing cultural diversity, community facilities play an important role in creating opportunities for people to meet, interact, participate in community life, and develop a sense of belonging. The research will explore whether existing facilities are meeting the needs of different groups within the community and identify opportunities to improve how these spaces are planned, designed, programmed, and managed to foster stronger connections between residents.

To develop a robust understanding of how community facilities support social connection, the research will draw on the perspectives of both people who use these spaces and those involved in their planning, design, and operation.

Participants will include:

- Members of the community who regularly use the nominated community facility in the City of Casey.
- City of Casey staff, consultants, or stakeholders involved in planning, designing, or operating the facility.

All participants will be adults and participation is voluntary.

Participation in the research will be through **interviews** with community members. Interviews sessions will be held either in person, or virtually (e.g. Zoom / MS Teams). Some interviewees may be recontacted for one follow up phone call if required to clarify any responses.



The project involves **audio or video recording** of the interviews to assist with the research. All information will be de-identified (no names will be used in the reporting of the research).

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

The consent process to participate in this research involves verbally consenting on a recording device at the beginning of the interview.

You have the right to opt out or withdraw from the research prior to completing the interview. You may request to have your responses withdrawn up until 31 August 2026.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

Participation in this research offers individuals the opportunity to share their lived experiences and perspectives on how community infrastructure affects their sense of connection, belonging, and attachment to place. By contributing, participants help shape a clearer understanding of what makes community facilities inclusive, welcoming, and effective in rapidly growing areas such as the City of Casey.

The findings may inform more responsive and community-focused infrastructure planning and delivery, potentially influencing how the City of Casey and other local councils design and manage shared spaces. Participants' input may also guide future collaboration and innovation in policy and practice, with the broader aim of supporting stronger, more connected communities across Victoria and beyond.

This research is considered low risk to participants. However, as with any study involving personal perspectives and experiences, there are a few potential burdens and risks to participants:

- **Time Commitment:** Participants may experience a minor inconvenience due to the time required to take part in an interview (expected duration: 30–60 minutes).
- **Emotional Discomfort:** In rare cases, reflecting on experiences related to inclusion, belonging, or access to community infrastructure may elicit mild emotional discomfort, particularly if participants have had negative or exclusionary experiences.

Confidentiality

To ensure that participant confidentiality and privacy is maintained, the following measures will be in place for the research:

- Participation is entirely voluntary, and participants may withdraw at any time without consequence.
- Whilst interviews include discussions about feelings of belonging and attitudes to where you live, and social connections, no sensitive or intrusive questions will be asked, and participants may decline to answer any question they do not wish to.
- Interview responses will be de-identified where possible, and all data will be stored securely.
- Any identifying details will be removed from reports, and where quotes are used, these will be anonymised to prevent recognition.



- Researchers will take care to avoid interviewing individuals in a group setting unless explicitly requested (e.g. focus groups), and all contact will be conducted in a way that protects participant confidentiality.

These measures are designed to ensure participants feel respected, safe, and in control of their involvement in the research at all times.

Transcribing of session recordings

With participants' consent, interviews will be audio or video recorded to ensure accurate capture of the discussion. These recordings will be transcribed using software such as Zoom Automatic Transcription or Otter AI service that adheres to confidentiality standards. All transcripts will be checked and edited by the research team to ensure accuracy. To maintain privacy:

- Transcripts will be de-identified, with names and any identifying details removed or replaced with general descriptors (e.g., "community member," "council officer").
- Audio files and transcripts will be stored securely on password-protected, encrypted devices or cloud services approved for research data storage.
- Only approved members of the research team will have access to the recordings and transcripts.

Use of Artificial Intelligence and Automation Tools

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automated tools will be utilised in a limited capacity during the preparation and execution of this research project under the following strict conditions:

- **Transcription Services:** Automated transcription tools (such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and/or Otter.ai) will be used solely for the purpose of transcribing audio recordings from interviews or meetings. These tools will be used to ensure accuracy and efficiency in data processing; they will not be to analyse or interpret the data.
- **Drafting and Editing Assistance:** The generative AI platform Gemini will be used to assist with background research, structural drafting, and proofreading/editing of text.

Data Privacy and Integrity Compliance

In alignment with data security protocols, Gemini will be accessed strictly via a closed, Monash University enterprise-licensed account. This ensures that no project data, text prompts, or research materials are utilised for AI training purposes, shared with public models, or retained for external machine learning. The final analysis, interpretation of data, and authorship of all research outputs remain entirely those of the human researchers.

External Funding of Project

This research project has been funded by the City of Casey as part of their Connecting Communities Living Lab program. <https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/connecting-communities-living-lab>

Storage of data

The research data will be stored for at least 5 years on secure Monash University servers accessible



only to current and future members of the research team. After this period the data will be deleted from servers and destroyed when it is no longer required.

Results

A summary of the results will be available after 1 March 2027. Please email the chief investigator if you want to receive a copy.

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)

Office of Research Ethics and Integrity

Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)

26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus

Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu