

## SCHOOL OF ARTS

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	<b>Hazelwood Health Study: Community Wellbeing (Part 2)</b>
<b>PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER:</b>	<b>Dr Susan Yell</b>
<b>OTHER/STUDENT RESEARCHERS:</b>	<b>Assoc. Prof. Michelle Duffy, Assoc. Prof. Damian Morgan, Dr Matthew Carroll, Ms Lynda McRae</b>

### **Information for participants** *(This information sheet is for you to keep)*

You are invited to participate in interviews regarding community wellbeing following the Hazelwood mine fire. This information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to participate in this study.

Please read the information carefully and feel free to ask questions before signing the consent form.

This research is being conducted by Dr Susan Yell, Assoc. Prof. Damian Morgan and Ms Lynda McRae from Federation University (Gippsland), Assoc. Prof. Michelle Duffy from the University of Newcastle and Dr Matthew Carroll from Monash Rural Health - Churchill. (Please see the end of this information sheet for the Principal Researcher's contact details.)

### **The aim of the research**

This project builds on prior research conducted by the Community Wellbeing Stream of the Hazelwood Health Study (HHS). This 10-year study, funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, is identifying health and wellbeing effects of the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire and associated smoke event. Federation University researchers are collaborating with researchers from Monash Rural Health and the University of Newcastle to undertake this project. Part Two of this research seeks to understand:

- How has the community's wellbeing and recovery from the Hazelwood Mine Fire been impacted by events since the fire?
- What factors tell us about the community's wellbeing now and in the future?
- How does community wellbeing affect personal wellbeing, and vice versa?

### **Why did you invite me to be part of this research?**

We are inviting you to be part of this research because we want to get a wide range of perspectives from people in the community about: the impact of a range of events including the Hazelwood mine fire on community wellbeing; appropriate measures for assessing and monitoring community wellbeing, and; the relationship between personal wellbeing and community wellbeing.

### **How was I selected to be part of this research?**

You were selected to participate in this interview because, either: (a) you have previously participated in this research, (b) you have been identified by the research team as a key community stakeholder whose insights will add value to this study, or (c) a community stakeholder organisation with whom you are involved has suggested you may have valuable insights to add to this study.

### **What does the research involve?**

The study involves participation in an audio-recorded, semi-structured interview at a mutually agreed location convenient to you. The interview will take around 60 to 90 minutes. If COVID-19 social distancing restrictions are in place at the time of conducting interviews, other appropriate arrangements will be available, such as a telephone or Skype interview.

## Can I withdraw from the research?

Being in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participate. If you do participate, you may choose to withdraw at any time, by informing the researchers. Any unprocessed data related to you will be withdrawn. If consent is withdrawn after data has been processed it will not be possible to withdraw non-identifiable data, although consent can still be withdrawn.

During the interview, you may decline to answer any particular question, or ask for the interview to stop. We do not anticipate any risks to you in participating, but we recognise that talking about adverse issues impacting on the region, and questions on individual wellbeing, might be upsetting for some people. If you become upset during the interview, we would take a short break or stop the session. Help is also available through Lifeline (13 11 14) or Beyond Blue (1300 22 4643).

## Possible benefits

The research may help by:

- Mapping the strengths and capacities of this community which may be used by a range of organisations to support future community planning and resource allocation;
- Contributing to a better understanding of community recovery and resilience after major adverse events;
- Increasing knowledge about how individual and community wellbeing interact to promote overall wellbeing.

## Confidentiality

We will make every effort to protect your identity and preserve confidentiality. Individuals will be given pseudonyms in any publication arising out of this project. However, given the small population size of the Latrobe City area, it cannot be guaranteed that participants will not be identifiable. In participating in this research, your deidentified data may also be used to inform future research.

## Reviewing transcripts

You will be provided with an opportunity to review your interview transcript and to withdraw or amend (if appropriate) any unprocessed data that you have supplied.

## Storage of data

Storage of the data collected will adhere to the University regulations and be kept securely on University premises. Only the researchers named above will have access to this data. Hardcopies of the data be destroyed by the Principal Researcher after five years, however electronic copies will be stored indefinitely on the University's secure internal drive.

## Results

Participants will be provided with information on the project's findings and outcomes via plain language research summaries, made publicly available via the HHS website. Findings and outcomes may also be presented at appropriate community events such as the HHS Annual Community Engagement sessions, to the Latrobe Health Assembly or its relevant sub-groups, and in technical reports and academic publications.

If you have any questions, or you would like further information regarding the project titled *Hazelwood Health Study: Community Wellbeing (Part 2)*, please contact the Principal Researcher Dr Susan Yell, School of the Arts, Federation University Australia (Gippsland) on:

Telephone: (03) 5122 6442

Email: [sue.yell@federation.edu.au](mailto:sue.yell@federation.edu.au)

Should you (i.e. the participant) have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this research project, please contact the Federation University Coordinator Research Ethics, Research Services, Federation University Australia, P O Box 663 Mt Helen VIC 3353, Telephone: (03) 5327 9765.  
Email: [research.ethics@federation.edu.au](mailto:research.ethics@federation.edu.au) CRICOS Provider Number 00103D