

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
(Local residents)

Project ID: 31811

Project title: Inclusive neighbourhoods

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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 numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

Researchers at Monash University are conducting a project that aims to examine how residents perceive their local area and surrounding neighbourhoods. The researchers are also interested in residents' perceptions of belonging, inclusion, and threat in their local area.

We would like to conduct a one-hour long interview with you to better understand how you define the boundaries of your local area and your experiences of living in this area, especially as it relates to belonging, inclusion, and threats in your local community. We are also interested in the types of relationships you have with other residents in your local area.

The interview will be conducted face-to-face (or virtually via Zoom if the COVID-19 pandemic prompts any uncertainty or concern for you around the time of the scheduled interview). In addition to discussing your local neighbourhood, we will also use a smart tablet device (an iPad) displaying a map. You can use the map as a prompt for discussions. For example, you can show us where your neighbourhood boundaries are, the spaces that you use or avoid, where you meet your neighbours, friends, and family, and various experiences you have had in specific parts of your local area. The researchers will show you how to use the iPad and map if you are unsure.

The interview will be audio recorded and the activities conducted on the iPad will be screen recorded. You will be offered a \$30 gift card at the end of the interview as an acknowledgement of your time, willingness to share your experiences, and involvement in the project.

Why were you invited for this research?

You have been invited to participate in this research because you responded to the post card you received in the mail. You also live in one of the nine local areas we are focussing on for this project.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Participating in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participation. However, if you would like to be a participant in this project, please provide your consent by reading, signing, and returning the participant consent form. The research team will email the consent form to you prior to the interview and will also bring a hard copy on the day of the interview for you to read, complete, and sign.

Any information that you provide in the interview may be used in publications, reports, presentation, and future research. In such instances, you will be de-identified (meaning your name will not be used).

You have the right to withdraw from further participation at any stage of the interview and up to one month following it. Should you wish to withdraw, please contact Professor Rebecca Wickes (email above).

Possible benefits and risks to participants

The benefits to participants include the opportunity to share views and experiences of living in their neighbourhood, including what creates conflicts in the area and/or what makes the area harmonious. Your insights will be significant as the researchers uncover how local residents perceive neighbourhood boundaries and how this may differ from government data related to geographic areas. The researchers will also better understand how residents interact with each other in different neighbourhood contexts and the spaces they use. The research will lead to the development of practices and strategies that promote harmony and inclusion in neighbourhoods that are place-based and socially and culturally relevant.

It is not expected that your involvement in this interview will cause any inconvenience and/or discomfort to you. However, the researchers will ask you about racial conflicts and vilification that you may have witnessed or experienced. You are not obliged to describe these details if you feel uncomfortable.

The researchers will take steps to minimise the potential for any distress or discomfort that you may experience during the interview. In advance of the interview, you will be notified about the topics of conversation by email. You will then be contacted 24 hours before the interview to ensure you are prepared and still willing to participate. During the interviews, if there is any content that could lead to distressing or traumatic stories, these will not be pursued by the interviewer.

A list of psychological services is provided to you below. If the researchers are concerned about your well-being following the interview, they will call you one day after the interview and then seven days after the interview to follow-up and reiterate that the psychological listed are available to be contacted.

Services on offer if adversely affected

Victorian Transcultural Mental Health

Address: St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Level 1, Bolte Wing, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, Vic, 3065

Phone: 03 9231 3300

Beyond Blue Support Services

This service provides support via telephone 24/7, daily web chat (between 3pm–12am), and email.

Phone: 1300 22 4636

More contact details can be found here: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/about-us/contact-us>

Payment

You will receive a \$30 gift voucher should you take part in the project. The voucher will be given to you once the interview is completed. If the interview is conducted virtually – via phone or Zoom – the research team will post the voucher to you.

The research team may be asked to provide the names of participants to the Monash finance team for auditing purposes. If this occurs, there is a chance that you will not remain anonymous to the finance team within Monash University.

Confidentiality

All information you provide in your interview will be collated with other participants' interview transcripts for analysis. All interview material will be de-identified in reports, publication, and presentations. The information you provide will not use your name or other identifiable information. We will use pseudonyms instead.

The researchers will use a transcription service, DAATS, meaning the interview recording will be sent to this company to be transcribed. DAATS is a credible and trusted audio transcription service that has a secure system in place whereby the researcher uploads the audio file to a secure folder, the audio is transcribed, and the transcription is then sent to the researchers. The audio and transcription files are destroyed by DAATS seven days after the transcript is made available for the researchers to download from the secure folder. To maintain your confidentiality, we will remove all identifiers from the recordings before distributing the data to the transcription service.

Storage of data

The interview recordings and transcripts will be kept by the researchers on secure laptops that are password protected. The interview materials will adhere to Monash University regulations and be kept on the researchers' laptops within a secure electronic file for five years before it is then destroyed.

Results

The results will contribute to publications (journal articles and book chapters), grant applications, and conference presentations. If you would like copies of these, please advise the chief investigator (email above).

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,



Professor Rebecca Wickes
Chief Investigator