

Plain Language Statement

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health



Project: *Children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide: Understanding home, relationships and identity*

Key contacts:

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Introduction

Thank you for considering participation for the young person in your guardianship. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about. Participation is voluntary: there is no obligation at all. And if the young person begins participating, they can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

To contribute to better support for children and young people who have lost a parent due to domestic homicide, we want to understand their experiences. We specifically want to look at experiences with living arrangements, relationships with family and friends, and self-view. We plan to interview young people and adults who have been bereaved, caregivers, and professionals who work with children and young people. We will also include data from a similar study in the UK, to get a broader perspective and understand similarities and differences.

What will the young person and I be asked to do?

Should you agree to the young person's participation we will ask you to answer a few online questions about their background and for them to participate in an online Zoom interview (we will help them to set this up). The online questions will take about 5 minutes. The length of the interview depends on how much the young person wants to share; we expect the minimum time to be approximately 30 minutes. The interview will be recorded. If the young person has any materials (e.g. news items, letters, art) that they would like to share with us, they can do so too.

Please note that if you would like to participate in an interview yourself, we have a separate Plain Language Statement and Consent Form for this purpose.

What are the possible benefits?

We hope that this project will lead to better support for young people and families affected by domestic homicide; we will share our findings with policy makers and practitioners for this purpose.

The young person will receive a \$30 gift card to thank them for their participation in the interview.

After the interview, the young person can be involved in next steps if they want to and if you agree to this: we will collect their ideas about possible next steps during the interview and will support a project (this could be an arts project, a media project, setting up a support group, or something else).

What are the possible risks?

Due to the topic, it is possible that the young person feels strong emotions during the interview. These are usually only temporary and we are experienced in supporting young people through this. The young person can also stop or skip questions at any time. We will give you both tips about mental health support options. We will check-in with you and the young person to see how they are after the interview (about 2-3 days and 2 weeks afterwards). If you or the young person tells us about anyone being at risk of harm, we will work with you and/or relevant services on a safety plan.

Does the young person have to take part?

Not at all. Participation is completely voluntary. They can withdraw at any time before or during the interview. Please note that if they withdraw after the interview, their data may already have been included in the analysis and we cannot 'undo' that.

Will the young person and I hear about the results of this project?

Yes! We are keen to let you know the results. We will share a summary with you and the young person via email and they can be involved in sharing and discussing the results if they would like that and you agree to this (see 'what are the possible benefits' above).

What will happen to information about the young person?

We have several procedures to keep their information safe and confidential, subject to any legal requirements; for example, we won't share their name in our reports. Because of the frequent media exposure and the unique circumstances of families affected by domestic homicide, there is a possibility that someone recognises the young person's story. If this is a concern to you, we recommend that the young person does not participate.

For writing out (transcribing) the Zoom interviews, we may make use of the services of Otter.ai, a company that uses automated software rather than human transcribers.

Information captured in the interview recording will be subject to Otter.ai's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Otter.ai stores and processes information overseas.

We will keep information from the project on the servers of the University, in line with legal requirements, indefinitely. The young person's information may be used for future projects on domestic violence by members of our team (e.g. further international comparisons of families' experiences after domestic homicide).

Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Kati Marinkovic (Interviewee Support) katitza.marinkovic@unimelb.edu.au (phone: 0415 732 739); Eva Alisic (Responsible Researcher): ealisic@unimelb.edu.au; and/or Kathryn Joy (Expert with lived experience): kathryn.joy@unimelb.edu.au. Our team also includes Cathy Humphries, Mira Vasileva, John Frederick, Anna Barrett, Vincent Lamberti, Lisa Albert, John Devaney, Oliver Eastwood, Ashwini Sakthiakumaran, Claire Houghton, Hannah Morrice, Zain Kurdi and Rowena Conroy.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne (reference number 14504). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

Where can we get support if I want counselling for the young person or myself?

There are several ways in which you can get one-off or multi-session counselling for the young person or yourself. These are all independent of this project. We are more than happy to talk about the options, also if you decide not to participate in the research.

In general, good places to start for one-off support are Kids Helpline (for children and young people up to 25 years and their carers: <https://kidshelpline.com.au> or phone 1800 55 1800), Life Line (<https://www.lifeline.org.au> or phone 13 11 14) and Beyond Blue (<https://www.beyondblue.org.au> or phone 1300 22 4636). These services are all free of charge.

For multi-session support, a general practitioner (GP) can provide you with a mental health treatment plan to get a Medicare rebate and refer you to a mental health professional. You can also search for these yourself via [Find a Psychologist](#) and [Find a Social Worker](#) (you can insert key words to search for specialisations). If you are in contact with a local Victim Support organisation, they will be aware of local options.

Finally (regarding support for yourself), if you are studying, your education institution can inform you about counselling options, and if you are employed, many organisations have independent Employee Assistance Programs.