

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:

Kati Marinkovic (Interviewee Support): katitza.marinkovic@unimelb.edu.au (Phone: 0415 732 739); Eva Alisic (Responsible Researcher): ealisic@unimelb.edu.au; Kathryn Joy (Expert with lived experience): kathryn.joy@unimelb.edu.au

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this project. 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. Your participation is voluntary: if you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. And if you begin participating, you 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 such as yourself, and professionals who work with children and young people.

If you are not a 'formal' caregiver but have spent a lot of time with a child or young person bereaved by domestic homicide (e.g. as family member or family friend), you are also very welcome to participate.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate we will ask you to answer a few online questions about your background as caregiver of a young person bereaved by domestic homicide and to participate in an online Zoom interview (we will help you to set this up). The online questions will take about 5 minutes. The length of the interview depends on how much you want to share; we expect the minimum time to be approximately 30 minutes. The interview will be recorded. If you have any materials (e.g. news items, letters, art) that you would like to share with us, you can do so too.

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.

You will receive a \$30 gift card to thank you for your participation in the interview.

After the interview, you can be involved in next steps if you want to: we will collect your ideas about possible next steps during the interview and 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 you feel strong emotions during the interview. We will support you if that happens, and you can stop or skip questions at any time. We will give you tips about local mental health care options if you like. We will check-in with you to see how you are after the interview (about 2-3 days and 2 weeks afterwards). If you tell us about anyone being at risk of harm, we will work with you and/or relevant services on a safety plan.

Do I have to take part?

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

Will 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 via email and you can be involved in sharing and discussing the results if you like (see also 'what are the possible benefits' above).

What will happen to information about me?

We have several procedures to keep your information safe and confidential, subject to any legal requirements. For example, we won't share your name in our reports (unless you ask us to be named). Because of the frequent media exposure and the unique circumstances of families affected by domestic homicide, there is a possibility that someone recognises your story. If this is a concern to you, we recommend that you do 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 your 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. Your information may be used for future projects on domestic violence by members of our team (e.g. 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, Zain Kurdi and Rowena Conroy.

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

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. 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 Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

Where can I get support if I want counselling?

There are several ways in which you can get one-off or multi-session counselling. These are all independent of this project. We are more than happy to talk about the options for you, 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, your 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 in your area. 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 your local Victim Support organisation; they will be aware of local options for you too.

Finally, 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.