

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 our project. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You can ask any questions if there's anything you don't understand or want to know more about. Your participation is voluntary: if you don't want to join this research project, you don't have to. Also, if you begin, you can still stop at any time.

What is this research about?

We want to understand the stories of children and young people who have lost a parent due to domestic homicide. This information can help adults support children better in the future. For example, we want to learn what children think of where they live, their relationships with family and friends, and also how they see themselves.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate in this study, we will meet online to have a Zoom interview. We will help you to set this up. The length of the interview depends on how much you want to tell us. We think it will take at least 30 minutes. We will record the interview to help us remember what you said. Also, if you want, you can share with us any materials like news items, letters, or art that you think are important.

What are the possible benefits?

We hope that this project can help adults to better support children and young people who lose a parent due to domestic violence. You will receive a \$30 gift card to thank you for your participation in the interview.

If you want, you can also get involved in a future project. During the interview, we will ask your ideas for this. For example, you may be interested in doing an arts project, participating in a support group, or something else.

What are the possible risks?

Due to the topic of the interview, it is possible that you feel strong emotions. If that happens, we will support you and you can stop or skip questions. If you like, we will

give you and your caregiver(s) tips about local support options. We will also check in with you to see how you are about 2-3 days after the interview and then again 2 weeks later. 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 do this project?

Not at all. Participation is completely voluntary. You can quit the study at any time before or during the interview. However, if you quit the study after the interview and we already analysed what you said, it may not be possible to delete that information.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Yes! We want you to know the results of the study. We will send you a summary via email. If you want to, you can also get involved in sharing and discussing the results with other people.

What will happen to information about me?

We find it important to keep your information safe and confidential. For example, we won't share your name in our reports. But, it is possible that someone who knows your story can guess who you are. If you are worried about this, it is better not to do the interview.

We will keep the information from this project on the servers (the online storage) of the University. We may also send it to an automated service that helps us write out the interviews. This service is overseas. We may also use the information for future projects.

Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council.

Where can I get further information?

You can contact Kati for this. Her email address is katitza.marinkovic@unimelb.edu.au and her phone number is 0415 732 739, which you can call or text. You can also contact Eva, the responsible researcher (ealisic@unimelb.edu.au) or Kathryn, our colleague who has personal experience (her father killed her mother; kathryn.joy@unimelb.edu.au). Other colleagues who are helping with this project are Cathy, Mira, John F, Anna, Vincent, Lisa, John D (we have two Johns!), Oliver, Ashwini, Zain and Rowena.

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

This research project has been approved by a committee that makes sure the university does its research carefully. The committee is called the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have a concern or a complaint, please contact Kati, Eva or Kathryn (details above). If you prefer to talk with someone else, you can contact the committee: 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. Everything thing you say will be private and confidential. If you send an e-mail to them, please mention the ethics ID of our project: 2057659.

Where can I get help if I want counselling?

Here are good places to start:

Kids Helpline: <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.

Together with your caregiver, you can also go to your doctor (GP) to ask for a “mental health treatment plan” to get support from a mental health professional in your area.

We are also happy to talk with you about options for finding help. And if you are in contact with your local Victim Support organisation, they will know of options too.