

Participant Study Information Letter

Walkern Katatdjin
Rainbow Knowledge



Project Title: Understanding and promoting the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people

Thank you for your interest in this study.

What is this study about and why is it happening? Very little is known about the social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) and mental health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer/questioning, asexual, plus (LGBTQA+) young people. This study aims to identify what those needs are by listening to you – someone who is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander & LGBTQA+.

Who can take part in the study?

If you answer **yes** to all of these points, then you can take part in the study:

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Identify as LGBTQA+ (queer or being sexually or gender diverse)
- Aged 14 – 25 years old

What will I be asked to do? Have a chat to us about what it is like being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander & LGBTQA+ young person. You can take part in this study by going to a yarning group with other Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. If you aren't comfortable talking about this in a group, you can have a one-on-one chat with one of our team members.

In the yarning group you will be asked to share what it is like for you living as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young person with a group of about 7-10 other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. You may also be asked to talk about your experiences of health and social support services and your preferences for how services could support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. The yarning group will be run by two members of the study team and will take between 2 and 4 hours. If you chose to speak with a team member one-on-one, they will ask you questions about your experiences.

Who is doing this study? This research is being conducted by a team of researchers from the Telethon Kids Institute, Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre at Murdoch University, and Western Sydney University. Our research team is diverse and includes Aboriginal, LGBTQA+, and Aboriginal & LGBTQA+ researchers.

What will you do with the stories I share? We will look for similarities and differences in the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people across Australia. We will summarise these experiences and put them in a written report. This report will **not** identify you in any

way – your name will never be attached to what you say. This report will be shared with local Indigenous, non-Indigenous, and LGBTQA+ support services so that they can better understand the needs and preferences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. You can have a copy of the report and share it with whoever you like. Findings from this study will also be published in academic journals and presented at research conferences. Again, you will not be identifiable in these publications.

Will anybody else know what I tell you? You will only be expected to share to your level of comfort. Yarning groups and interviews will be audio recorded so that the researchers can go back and listen to what has been said. If we send these audio tapes to someone to transcribe (i.e. write down what has been said), they will sign a confidentiality agreement to make sure they don't tell your story to anyone. Once the audio files have been transcribed, we will destroy them. Until they are transcribed, the audio files will be kept in a password protected file on the researcher's computer. This will be the only copy of the files (i.e. we will delete them from the recording device). You can choose to give your name or use another name (an alias) on these recordings. Research team members may contact you at a later date when they have analysed data collected to check what that we have understood what you have said correctly. We will keep a list of what your alias is so we can contact you for this. This list will be stored in a password protected file and only the researchers will be able to see it.

Will I be reimbursed for my time? You will receive \$30 per hour for participation in a 2-4 hour yarning group or interview. This money will also be used to help cover any travel costs in getting to and from the place of the yarning group/interview. Additional costs for travelling and accommodation if you are coming from a remote area will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What are the benefits of taking part? Taking part in this study is an opportunity to be actively involved in this important research about how best to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. You will have a chance to meet and share your experiences with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people. You will also learn about the process of research you are taking part in it.

What are the risks for me taking part? You may choose to discuss or you may hear upsetting stories and experiences in the yarning group/ interviews which cause you distress (e.g. stories of social exclusion or self-harm). We will provide you with a list of services where you can access support. We will also have local psychologists who we can arrange for you to see if you need to.

Do I need my parents/guardians' permission if I am under 18 years of age? No, you do not need your parents'/guardians' permission to take part in this study. We understand that you may not be 'out' to your family members and we do not want this to prevent you from taking part in this important research. However, if we think that you may be at risk of hurting yourself, hurting someone else, or someone is hurting you, we will have to inform either your parents/guardians or another trusted adult. Therefore, if you are under 18 years of age, we will ask you to provide contact details for your parent/guardian.

What if taking part is upsetting for me? You can speak to the researcher and ask for a referral to be made to a local mental health professional, such as a psychologist. You can choose to stop the talking and leave the interview or yarning group.

Do I have to take part? Participation in this study is completely voluntary and written consent is required by you before you can take part in the study. There are no expectations by the research team that you will participate, it is entirely your choice. You will only be expected to participate to your level of comfort and are not required to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

What happens if I change my mind? You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without any negative effects to you, regardless of your signed consent. You can request (by contacting a member of the research team) that the responses you provide during your participation in this study be permanently deleted and they will be.

Is this research approved?

The research has been approved by the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (Permit #910) and Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales (Permit #1536/19)

What if I have complaints about the study? You can contact Ashleigh Lin on Ashleigh.Lin@telethonkids.org.au or (08) 6319 1291. If Ashleigh is unable to help, please contact the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee Ethics Officer on (08) 9227 1631 or email ethics@ahcwa.org.

What if I have more questions? If you have any more questions, feel free to contact Shakara Liddelow-Hunt on Rainbow.Knowledge@telethonkids.org.au or (08) 6319 1062. Shakara can discuss the research with you in detail over the phone if you have additional questions and want to learn more about it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information letter :)