

Participant Information and Consent Form (PICF)

Sexual Health And Risk Prevention Project (SHARP) Survey

Researchers: Prof Mark Stoové, Dr Alisa Pedrana, Prof Martin Holt, Dr Anna Wilkinson, Mr Jason Asselin, Ms Bridget Draper, Dr Brendan Quinn, Ms Stelliana Goutzamanis

1. Introduction

You are invited to participate in this research project because you clicked on a Facebook advertisement for this project.

This Participant Information page provides information about the study. It explains what is involved to help you decide if you want to take part in this survey.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a friend, a relative, or one of the research staff. Please make note of the details below, which you can use to contact the project team if you want to know more before going ahead with the survey:

Project coordinator: Dr Brendan Quinn

Phone number: 03 9282 2259

Email address: brendan.quinn@burnet.edu.au

Participation in this research is voluntary (if you don't wish to take part, you don't have to).

If you decide you want to take part in the survey, you will be asked to consent to participation. By consenting, you are telling us that you:

- understand what you have read;
- consent to take part in the research project;
- consent to be involved in the procedures described; and,
- consent to the use of your personal and health information as described.

A copy of this Participant Information will be made available for download on our project web page [here](#).

2. What is the purpose of this research project?

This project is designed to investigate attitudes and behaviours to sexual health and HIV prevention among gay and bisexual men in Victoria. Given the success of previous surveys undertaken by our project team, we were able to provide valuable

information about the effectiveness of HIV prevention campaigns to the Department of Health and Human Services.

3. What does participation in this research project involve?

Participation in this study involves completing an online survey (the survey will close on *insert date*) and receiving follow-up emails for future surveys (about one per year). You may also receive emails about participating in other future Burnet Institute studies similar to this one. You can opt out of the evaluation and opt out of receiving further emails at any time by contacting the project coordinator or by clicking on the opt-out link provided in each invitation email.

The survey is expected to take ~15-20 minutes to complete and will ask questions on basic demographics, HIV/STI testing and sexual behaviours, barriers to HIV testing, and beliefs and attitudes about various sexual practices and HIV prevention strategies.

For each survey wave we will be contacting you three times:

1. The day the survey opens – you will receive an email with a reminder of the study and a link to the survey
2. Half way reminder – the survey will be open for four weeks and a reminder email will be sent two weeks after the survey opens
3. Final reminder and thank you – reminder will be sent a few days prior to the survey closing, link to the survey and thank you

If at any point you would like to be removed from the email list, please email brendan.quinn@burnet.edu.au, or click on the link provided in the invitation and reminder emails.

Data collected in this survey will be linked to your future survey data (should you complete any future surveys) using the email address you provide which will be replaced with a unique participant number (i.e., your email address will be removed from your survey responses). This linked survey data will be used to look at changes in participant responses over time.

4. What are the possible benefits?

Possible benefits to you include the opportunity to inform the design and refinement of sexual health and HIV initiatives in Victoria. You will also have the opportunity to win one of three \$200 Coles/Myer gift cards by completing the survey.

5. What are the possible risks?

You may feel uncomfortable answering some of these questions; however you are free to not answer any question you don't feel comfortable answering. This survey includes questions on illicit drug use – all answers will be held confidential and not

provided to any other person or authority unless required by law. You do not need to answer these questions if you do not feel comfortable answering them.

6. Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary (if you do not wish to take part, you do not have to). If you decide to take part and later change your mind you are free to withdraw from the project at a later stage by contacting the project coordinator. If you decide to withdraw, your survey data will be destroyed and you will be taken off the email list.

Your decision whether to take part or not, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the Burnet Institute. You can withdraw by closing your browser before completing the survey, clicking on this link or the one provided in your email invitations, or by contacting the project coordinator by phone or email (Brendan Quinn, tel: 03 9282 2259, email: brendan.quinn@burnet.edu.au).

7. How will I be informed of the final results of the research project?

We anticipate that a summary of results will be publicly available through community organisations (media publications and in academic publications/presentations) and on the Burnet Institute website as the project progresses.

Results from previous studies undertaken by the project team have been provided to the Victorian government and are available on the Burnet Institute [website](#).

8. What will happen to information about me?

Survey data used for analysis will be de-identified and confidential. Your identifying information (email address) will be stored separately from the survey responses dataset used for analysis by researchers. A database containing your email address is password protected and access is limited to the principal researcher and the project coordinator researchers. A database containing your survey responses will also be stored securely with access only available to the evaluation project team

Data will be securely stored on a password protected server for a minimum of seven years (according to national standards).

Any publication of information from this study will only use de-identified data.

9. Can I access research information kept about me?

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to access the information collected and stored by the

researchers about you. Please contact one of the researchers named at the end of this page if you would like to access your information.

Furthermore, in accordance with regulatory guidelines, the information collected in this research project will be kept for at least seven years. You must be aware that as the information collected is de-identified, access to information about you may not be possible.

10. Is this research project approved?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The Alfred Hospital.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)* produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

11. Who can I contact?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. Therefore, please note the following:

For further information:

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the principal researcher Professor Mark Stoové on 03 8506 2301 or Dr Brendan Quinn on 03 9282 2259 or brendan.quinn@burent.edu.au

For complaints:

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact:

Complaints Officer, Research & Ethics Unit, The Alfred Hospital

Telephone: 03 9076 3619

Email: research@alfred.org.au

Please quote the following Alfred Health project number: **62/16**.

12. Consent

- I consent to participate in the above evaluation project. The project's purposes and procedures involved in my participation have been explained to me and are outlined in this summary.

- I freely agree to participate in this project according to the conditions in this summary.
- I can request a copy of this summary to keep.
- I acknowledge that:
 - a. The possible effects of the procedures have been explained to me to meet my satisfaction;
 - b. I have been informed that I am free to withdraw from the project at any time and free to withdraw any unprocessed data previously supplied;
 - c. I have been informed that all information I provide will be held confidential and not provided to any other person or authority unless required by law.

Do you consent to participate in this project?

- Yes
- No