

INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH (Survey)

You are invited to participate

You are kindly invited to participate in the project *Understanding reporting barriers and support needs of those experiencing racism*. The project is conducted by Dr Mario Peucker, Professor Tom Clark, Dr Jo Doley and Ms Franka Vaughan from Victoria University in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV). The project is funded through the Research Impact Grant by VicHealth.

Project explanation

Despite ongoing efforts to tackle discrimination and racism in Victoria, people from multicultural and multifaith communities continue to experience discrimination, harassment and abuse because of their ethnic, cultural or religious background. The effects are often devastating for the individual and their communities, but racism and prejudice-driven incidents also negatively affect society at large.

International and emerging national research tells us that those who experience racism often refrain, for various reasons, from reporting what they have experienced and seeking support. This can have negative effects on their sense of belonging, safety, and health. In addition, the problem of under-reporting racism makes it very difficult to understand how often and in what way racism occurs in society. Without a good understanding of the problem, it is difficult to develop ways to counter these forms of exclusion and discrimination.

In this project, Victoria University works with ECCV and ICV to change this by listening to the voices of Victoria's multicultural and multifaith communities to better understand existing reporting barriers and to explore what kind of reporting pathways and support services are needed and expected by those from affected communities.

The project is committed to centring the expertise and experiences of those from Victoria's multicultural and multifaith communities. Victorians from these communities are invited and encouraged to have a say by sharing their insights and views in a community survey. To understand these community voices is crucial for improving existing reporting pathways and support services and establishing new ones that suit the needs of people who face racism. This will help make reporting and support services more accessible and help to ensure that reporting becomes an empowering experience.

What will I be asked to do?

As a participant in this study you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire either online or electronically (PDF). This will take approximately 10-15 min. The questions are mostly multiple choice and they cover topics such as:

- Experiences with and perspectives on racism in Victoria
- Reasons for and barriers to reporting such incidents and/or seeking support
- Your expectations when reporting such incidents
- Your views on existing reporting pathways support services for those who experience racism and/or religious prejudice/discrimination in Victoria

Your participation is completely anonymous, and at no stage will you be required to state your name. The information you provide will not be linked to you personally. However, if you would like to enter the draw for a prize (gift voucher 1x\$300, 2x\$200 and 3x\$100) or would like to be contacted and/or informed about the project, you will be asked to provide an email address. Your email address will not be linked to your survey responses.

What will I gain from participating?

This project seeks to improve the availability of accessible reporting pathways and support services for those from Victoria's multicultural and multifaith communities who experience racism or religious prejudice/discrimination. Your insights will help us identify gaps in the existing reporting and support services and develop recommendations on how to improve these

services in line with the needs and expectations of people from affected communities. We see this as a way to help empower affected community members who face racism, and to counter the negative social and personal effects of racism. Every participant is invited to enter the draw for a prize (gift voucher 1x\$300, 2x\$200 and 3x\$100); this would require them to provide their email address.

How will the information I give be used?

The findings will inform the drafting of a report that presents the local support landscape for people who experience racism and/or religious prejudice/discrimination; moreover, the report will highlight barriers that may stop individuals from seeking support after having experienced racism and/or religious prejudice/discrimination. The findings may also be presented through media or journal articles and book chapters as well as at workshops and other events.

What are the potential risks of participating in this project?

You will remain anonymous and you will not be identifiable, so there are no risks involved for you as a consequence of your participation in this research. If you choose to provide your email address either to enter the draw for one of the prizes or because you would like to be contacted/kept informed about the project, your email address will not be linked to your responses and will be treated confidentially and for no other purpose as you indicate. Reflecting previous experiences with racism can be distressing. If you feel distressed and need psychological support, you can contact Life Line or Beyond Blue)

Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/talk-to-a-counsellor>

Life Line: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/131114/>

How will this project be conducted?

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire, either online, electronically as a PDF (via email) or in pen-and-paper format. Before taking the survey, you will be asked to give your consent to participate by ticking a 'consent' box at the beginning of the questionnaire. Completing the survey will take approximately 10-15 min.

You can request to take the survey in a language other than English. We will try to accommodate your language request as much as we can. Please contact Mario Peucker if you would like to discuss this option (contact details below)

Who is conducting the study?

The study is conducted by Dr Mario Peucker (Chief Investigator), Professor Tom Clark, Dr Jo Doley and Ms Franka Vaughan (all Victoria University), in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV), and funded through the Research Impact Grant by VicHealth.

Contact details

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Any queries about your participation in this project may be directed to the Chief Investigator listed above.

If you have any queries or complaints about the way you have been treated, you may contact the Ethics Secretary, Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee, Office for Research, Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, VIC, 8001, email researchethics@vu.edu.au or phone (03) 9919 4781 or 4461.