

Plain Language Statement

Architecture, Building and Planning



Project: The impact of COVID19 on residents of shared houses in Victoria Surveys

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research. 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. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

This research is about building a better understanding of the impact of COVID19 on the financial, health and well-being and housing outcomes of members of share houses in Victoria. Little is known of the experiences of this group of people and research will make recommendations about how better to support this group.

What will I be asked to do?

You are being asked to fill out a survey that should take about 15 – 20 minutes to complete. The survey will cover questions like; where were you born? How many hours do you work per week? How much is your rent? How would you rate your mental health?

What are the possible benefits?

The world is changing rapidly in response to COVID-19. The benefit of better understanding the experiences of people living in share houses is the ability to create policy and solutions that acknowledge the experiences of people living in this housing type. This research aims to draw attention to the experiences of group households and renters more broadly and to foreground their needs in housing solutions.

What are the possible risks?

There are minimal risks associated with this survey. If this survey distresses you in any way, you may contact;

- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636 – a resource for Australians experiencing depression or anxiety

- Lifeline – 13 11 12 – a national charity that provides support to people experiencing a personal crisis
- National Debt Helpline – 1800 007 007 – A free support service to help people tackle their debt
- Tenants Victoria – a group dedicated to supporting the rights of tenants in Victoria <https://www.tenantsvic.org.au/about/>
- Dr Katrina Raynor – katrina.raynor@unimelb.edu.au – The responsible researcher if you wish to discuss the research

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw at any time and there will be no negative impacts.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Yes. If you request it, findings developed from this research will be sent to you after it is completed.

What will happen to information about me?

Data from the surveys will be stored in password-protected and encrypted cloud storage and on University servers. Surveys will not ask for your name or address. Only the research team will have access to the survey data. Data may be used on closely-related research projects lead by the research team listed on this project and data will be retained for at least 5 years after findings from this research are published.

Who is funding this project?

This research project is funded by the Hallmark Research Initiative for Affordable Housing at the University of Melbourne.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the principal researcher; Dr Katrina Raynor katrina.raynor@unimelb.edu.au

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.