

Participant Information Sheet – Housing Survey

Project Title: A place to call home

Project Summary:

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Anjali Roberts (Research and Policy Officer - Housing) and Nishadh Rego (Policy, Advocacy and Communications Manager) from Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. The research is being conducted in partnership with Dr Elizabeth Conroy from Western Sydney University.

The research hopes to find out about the successes and challenges in finding a home for people who are seeking asylum in Australia. We are interested in hearing from adults who have been in Australia for a short time or a long time, who arrived in Australia on their own or with their family, and who may be at different stages in their claim for protection.

The research is guided by a Project Advisory Group which has representatives from: National Refugee-led Advisory and Advocacy Group, House of Welcome, Australian Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul Society, Tenant's Union of NSW, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Western Sydney University, Life Without Barriers and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia.

How is the study being paid for? This project is funded by The Mercy Foundation and Life Without Barriers.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be invited to participate in an online survey about housing. The survey will ask questions about your experience of finding accommodation in Australia, including factors associated with this such as your visa status, access to Medicare and other supports, employment, and income. The survey will be anonymous, meaning your name, date of birth and contact information will not be recorded. You can complete the survey on your own in English, Farsi or Tamil. Or, you can complete the survey by phone using an interpreter in your preferred language.

How much of my time will I need to give?

The survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

We anticipate that the results of this research project will be published in a report and presented to housing, homelessness, asylum-seeker organisations and used to advocate to members of parliament. In any publication or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified. The survey information will be analysed and presented as group findings only, meaning individual findings will not be reported.

What will happen to the information I provide?

Please be assured that only the researchers (Anjali, Nishadh, and Elizabeth and students we supervise) will have access to the information you provide. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period (i.e. up to 10 years). For example, we may repeat this survey each year to see whether the housing situation for people seeking asylum improves over time. The anonymous survey data will be kept in a secure online environment for 10 years after which time it will be deleted.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

We hope the findings from this research project will improve housing support for people seeking asylum in the future.

We are offering the chance to go into a draw each week for 4 weeks to win a \$30 voucher for completing the survey.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

Reflecting on your housing and asylum experiences may make you feel distressed. If you become distressed, you can take a break from answering the questions and return to complete the survey later. If you remain distressed, please contact Anjali Roberts (M. 0498 618 405) who can find someone for you to talk to. A list of telephone helplines and support services will also be available as part of the survey.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. You can change your mind about participating in the survey by simply closing the browser window. However, if you start the survey but change your mind part-way through, any information already provided will be kept and used in the study. This is because the survey is anonymous, and it is not possible for the research team to identify individual surveys and remove them.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by sharing the link to the online survey or by providing them with the contact details for Anjali Roberts. They can contact Anjali to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain a copy of the information sheet.

What if I require further information?

Please contact Anjali Roberts should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether to participate.

Email: Anjali.Roberts@jrs.org.au

Phone: 0498 618 405

What if I have a complaint?



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If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H14049.