



Plain Language Statement for Survey

Project: Responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations – helping Aboriginal Housing Victoria further meet the needs and aspirations of their Aboriginal tenants

Key investigators: Prof. Margaret Kelaher¹, Ms Kristy Meiselbach¹, Dr Alison Brown¹ and Ms Samantha French²

1. Evaluation and Implementation Science Unit, Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne
2. Aboriginal Housing Victoria

Additional Researchers: Yin Paradies, Graham Gee, Rebecca Ritte, Jan Nicholson, Stephanie Brown, Kelsey Hegarty, Gregory Armstrong, Lea Waters, Darren Smith, Kerry Arabena, Fiona Mensah, Lata Satyen, Elizabeth Doery and John Toumbourou

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 the Project about?

The project is evaluating the effect of an Indigenous-led life-coaching service on the health and the cultural and spiritual, social and emotional, wellbeing (SEWB) of Aboriginal people who are tenants of *Aboriginal Housing Victoria*.

What are the possible benefits?

This project will help *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* identify and provide better services for Aboriginal tenants. The results of the study will help to

- understand the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families
- find new ways to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families
- evaluate the implementation of life-coaching and the effect on well-being long-term.

How is our Mob involved in the project?

Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in the project with input from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers from other community services and the University of Melbourne. The coordinator leading the project from *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* Samantha French and Kristy Meiselbach the research assistant from the Evaluation and Implementation Science unit at the University of Melbourne are both Aboriginal. There are also other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contributing to the project.

What will I be asked to do?

If you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over 16 years of age and are a tenant of AHV you are able to participate

in the survey. If you agree to participate, you will be invited to complete a survey at three different times over a two-year period with the help of an Aboriginal researcher employed by *Aboriginal Housing Victoria*. They will ask you questions then record them on a computer or iPad. You also have the option to undertake the survey and enter the answers yourself directly on the iPad.

The survey asks you questions about wellbeing, identity, education and employment, housing, family, experience of violence and aspirations for your family, and connections to culture and community. The survey will ask you whether your needs are being adequately met and what you think about your community, both its challenges and strengths. It also collects basic information about everyone who lives in the house, such as their age and whether they are employed or not.

The survey will take place either at your house or a place that's easy to get to. Altogether, the survey should take approximately one hour to complete all the questions. You may stop the survey at any time and complete at another time if more convenient. Before completing the survey you will be asked to complete a consent form to participate in this study.

Do I have to take part?

No, you do not have to be part of the study unless you want to. It's your choice whether or not to participate. If you do participate, you are completely free to stop the survey at any stage, skip any question or to withdraw any unanalysed information you have given us. This also will not have an effect on your relationship with *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* or the services you receive.

Will I be paid for my contribution?

If you agree to participate you will receive a \$40 Coles/Myer Giftcard each time you complete the survey or if you decide to do the life coaching \$60 Coles/Myer Giftcard if you undertake the final survey and interview about life coaching. You can stop the survey at any time and you will still receive the Giftcard in recognition of your time.

What are the possible risks?

Your wellbeing is important to the researchers and it is hoped that taking part in this study will be beneficial for you and your family. However, sometimes talking about things can trigger painful thoughts. If you do feel upset because of your involvement in the study, the researcher will be able to provide you with a list of support services available to you. Staff at *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* will also be available if you need to speak to them about any stress the study may have caused. The researchers will leave a list of appropriate services if you feel you need to speak to someone after they have left.

What will happen to the information about me?

Your name and contact details will be kept secure by staff at *Aboriginal Housing Victoria*. Your survey responses will be de-identified, meaning individuals will not be identified. Deidentified data will be analysed by the University of Melbourne researchers to provide community level information to *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* in order to assist them to identify support or service needs. We will not report back any individual issues or problems reported, only the types of help or services that you have said might help you now or in the future. Deidentified administrative information collected by AHV regarding your tenancy will also be analysed by the University of Melbourne researchers.

All the answers you give will be confidential and your name will not be used in any of the reports we write about the research. We will be careful not to include identifying information, quotes or stories, unless you give us permission to do so.

Anything you do or say about *Aboriginal Housing Victoria* in this survey will not impact the kind or type of services you currently receive from them or any services you receive in the future. You will not be penalised in any way if you choose to criticise them or the house that you rent from them.

There are some legal situations where information from research surveys may be subpoenaed by a court or accessed by a freedom of information request. If you discuss specific information about illegal activity, we may be required to pass this information on. Also, the researchers are legally obligated to inform the correct authorities if they are concerned for your wellbeing, or if they think the wellbeing of someone else is at risk. You should also be aware that this research will follow the standard duty of care procedures associated with mandatory reporting requirements, if there is significant concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person involved in the research. You can ask the researchers about how this might relate to you.

We will keep your information secure for seven years and then destroy it.

Who is funding the project?

The study has been funded by a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

How will I hear about the results of this project?

If you would like to receive a copy of the community report, you can provide your contact details and a copy will be mailed or emailed to you once it is completed.

Where can I get further information?

If you have questions about the research project you can contact:

Samantha French

Aboriginal Housing Victoria, 125-127 Scotchmer St,
NORTH FITZROY 3068
Phone: 03 9403 2143
samantha.french@ahvic.org.au

OR

Alison Brown

Evaluation and Implementation Science Unit, University of
Melbourne, 207 Bouverie St Parkville VIC 3010
Email: alison.brown@unimelb.edu.au

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This study has been approved by the Human Ethics Sub-Committee at 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 can contact

The Manager,

Human Research Ethics, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, The University of Melbourne
Phone +61 3 8344 2073
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.

Who can I contact if there is a problem with my tenancy that I wish to raise?

If the survey questions have raised any concerns for you in relation to your tenancy at Aboriginal Housing Victoria or if you would like assistance with referrals to local services please contact:

Aboriginal Housing Victoria

Narrandjeri House
125-127 Scotchmer street, North Fitzroy VIC 3068
Telephone:(03) 9403 2100
E mail: clientservices@ahvic.org.au

For maintenance enquiries/requests:

Please email maintenance@ahvic.org.au

For Emergency and After Hours

Please call (03) 9403 2100

Other support services

If you want to talk to someone about issues that may have come up during the survey that make you feel uncomfortable or upset, you can contact:

BeyondBlue Support Service

Telephone (24/7): 1300 22 4636

Daily web chat (3 pm-12 am) and email (response within 24 hours) can be accessed from www.beyondblue.org.au

Lifeline Australia—Crisis Support and Suicide Prevention

Telephone (24/7): 13 11 14

Daily web chat (7 pm-12 am): www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/online-services/crisis-chat

Text (6pm-12am): 0477 13 11 14

Thank you for considering this request. Please feel free to keep this sheet so you can read it later on.