

Making Communities Inclusive: Inclusive community planning for people with disabilities in regional areas.

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 1900000898

Researcher

Principal Researchers:

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Why is the study being conducted?

The purpose of this research project is to identify how we can better plan communities to be more inclusive of people with disabilities in regional areas. This project will be occurring over three years.

Researcher Lisa Stafford from QUT is working with two local regional councils to help answer this question. These communities are:

- Gympie Regional Council in Queensland.
- Clarence City Council and the Greater Hobart area in Tasmania.

This is the start of the research. The first stage of the research is to find out what inclusive communities means to people.

We also want to find out about your community and how inclusive it is for people with disabilities. There are different ways to participate for people with disabilities.

We are interested in hearing from **people with disabilities and/or chronic illness aged 9 years and older** to be involved in an activity-based interview.

When we say activity-based interview, we mean you complete and return a **storybook project**. If you ticked yes to being contacted for an interview on your storyboard project a researcher will then contact you to make a time to chat about what you have created.

This information sheet is about being involved in a storyboard activity-based interview.

What does participation involve?

People with disabilities aged 9 years and older will be asked to be involved in the Storyboard Activity-based Interview.

What's involved in making a story board?

To help you tell your story we have create a storyboard project with some questions for you to answer.

When using the storyboard project you can tell your answers by: writing, designing, drawing and or, using photos to make a collage.

You will have up to a month to complete your activity – so you can do it in your own time.

Once you have completed your activity you are asked to return your storyboard project to the research team. If you ticked yes to being contacted for an interview on your storyboard project the researcher will contact you as outlined in the storyboard: by email or phone.

Please ensure you take a photo of your storyboard or save a copy before submitting. Once they are submitted and your details removed (de-identified) it will not be possible to return them.

A member from the research team will organise a time to talk to you in an interview about what you have created. We will ask you and if under 18 your parents to complete a consent form to confirm your participation in an interview. There may be 1 to 2 months between completion of the storyboard and participating in an interview.

What is involved in the interview?

The interview will take about 1 hour.

The interview will occur by phone or by zoom – a video call. When we can (post-Covid-19) we will offer face-to-face interviews.

The interview will be recorded with your permission, so we can review it later with all the other participant's interviews to find out the meaning and experience of inclusive communities.

Your name will not be recorded or used in any of the information collected.

We will re-confirm consent with you at the time of the interview, you will be asked by the researcher to confirm whether you wish to do the interview (providing your consent), to ensure you are aware of what is being asked of you and if you are still prepared to participate.

Voluntary Involvement

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary.

If you do agree to participate you can stop participating (withdraw) without comment or penalty at any stage of the activity.

Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact on your current or future relationship with the research team and their universities.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that participation in this research project will not directly benefit you.

However, the outcomes of the research may provide future benefit by helping to inform and advocate for better planning practices and processes to make communities more inclusive in regional areas.

Participants will be emailed a link to research finding updates as they become available on the project website and will be emailed a summary of findings once the project is finished.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are some minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project

This includes:

The **risk of emotional discomfort**, which may occur should you choose to share an experience of exclusion that was distressing. There is no requirement to disclose distressing situations. We ask you to only reveal what you are comfortable revealing. There is also the risk of physical injury.

If your experience discomfort or distress as a result of your participation in the research you can contact **Lifeline**, who provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, by calling **13 11 14** for 24-hour telephone crisis support. If you are a young person aged under 25, you can also call the **Kids Helpline** on **1800 551 800**.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

The researchers will have access to your information from the activity-based interview; however, any details that can identify you will be removed from your verbal, written and creative artwork data. Your data will be stored without names or identifiable features – therefore it will be non-identifiable.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if you are quoted directly your identity may become known. As such it is important to talk about only what you are comfortable revealing.

The audio recording and the transcript, which won't be identifiable, will be stored securely as per the QUT Management of research data policy.

Given the importance of this research, the information you provide (without any identifying information) will be stored long term so that it may be used for future research by the research team, or other researchers investigating related areas of research. Your consent forms will be stored securely and destroyed after 15 years.

Summary of findings from the activity-based interviews and other data from stage 1 will be shared with the two local governments. They will not have access to any identifiable data.

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council under DE190101512 - ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA).

How do I give my consent to participate?

We invite you to sign the written consent form on the storyboard project to confirm your agreement to participate in this research.

We encourage you to ask any questions or speak to someone you know well before deciding to participate.

If you are under 18 years, you will need your parent/guardian's consent for you to participate in this research.

We will re-confirm consent with you at the time of the interview, you will be asked by the researcher to confirm whether you wish to do the activity (providing your consent), to ensure you are aware of what is being asked of you and if you are still prepared to participate.

An easy read information sheet has also been developed, which can be accessed on the [Planning Inclusive Communities Storyboard Project webpage](#).

The researcher will verbally go through the consent form with you on the day.

Future Use of Information

The consent to participate includes non-identifiable data provided being made available for research with related aims in the future. This includes written and visual-creative works. Only non-identifiable data will be used in future research.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact:

Dr Lisa Stafford

07 3138 4595

lisa.stafford@qut.edu.au

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

How to start a storyboard project

To view the ways that you can complete a storyboard project, visit the [Planning Inclusive Communities Storyboard Project webpage](#).

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.