

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

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 1900000898

Researcher

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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 communities and its members 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 ages 9 years and older with or without disabilities (inc. people with chronic health and mental health needs, family members or general public)** to be involved in an activity-based interview. When we say activity-based interview, we mean you complete one of the activities set by the researcher and then make a time to chat with the research team about what you have created.

You can choose to be involved in:

- Making a Storyboard using the workbook provided see here:
<https://www.planninginclusivecommunities.com/storyboard-project>

OR

- Doing a Photo/Video Voice project – which means taking picture or making a short film about what inclusive communities means to you.

This information sheet is about being involved in **photo/video voice** activity-based interview.

What does participation involve?

For people aged 9 years and older with or without disabilities (inc. people with chronic health and mental health needs, family members or general public) if you have selected the photo/video voice you will be asked to complete the activity as per this information sheet.

Photo/video voice have been shown as an effective method to help people explore topics to communicate meaning and experience.

Photo/video voice involves asking you – the participant – to take photos around certain themes or questions, over a period of time – in this research – participants will have a month.

You will then be asked to share and explain your photos/video in either a individual (one on one) interview or group interview with a researcher. In a group interview there will be up to 2- 9 other people as well as yourself being interviewed at the same time by Lisa the researcher. You get to choose individual or group interview.

The photos/video act as a focus for discussions about key messages you would like to say about planning communities to be inclusive of people with disabilities.

Co-construction will be available for children or any participants with complex communication needs, or any participant with a disability where they feel more comfortable being supported by a familiar person. See attachment of photovoice Instructions.

What is involved in photo/video voice activity?

You will be invited to take photos or video to convey what inclusive communities' means to them.

There are two things we would like you to do:

1. We would like you to take up to six photos of things in your community or video that show us what inclusive community means to you.

This could include images that shows:

- What makes an inclusive community to you.
- Things (spaces, activities, services) that help make communities inclusive.

2. We would also like you to take up to 6 photos of aspects of the community you wish could be changed to make community more inclusive for people with disabilities

This could include:

- Things that don't help make your community inclusive
- Things that should be available in your community but aren't

Once finished, you will then have the opportunity to tell a researcher about the images and their meaning – why you took it- in an interview.

Key pointers in taking photos

You can ask a family member or friend to help you.

You don't have to take an exact picture – you can take a picture of something that reminds you of an experience.

Take photos of whole objects, and try to include the setting in photos.

Avoid taking picture of people's faces: When taking photos or video avoid taking front on photos of people, as we may be using parts of this to make a collective visual story of each local community. However, if you accidentally do we will remove/blur out any people in your images who may be recognizable in the videos/photos.

Avoid taking photos directly into the sun. Try to have the light behind you or in the shade to help make the photo as clear as possible.

Check your photo, take another if unsure.

You can stop the activity at any time.

Access to equipment

Participants can use their or their families own personal camera/smart phone/tablet.

However, if you want to do the activity but don't have access to a camera/smartphone/tablet please contact the researchers at QUT via inclusivecommunities@qut.edu.au who can send you a disposable camera to use.

Support and time to complete the activity

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

Once you have completed your activity you are asked to make contact with the research team by email or phone.

Please ensure you save a copy of your photos before submitting. Once they are submitted with no name (de-identified) it will not be possible to return them.

A member from the research team will make a time to talk to you in an interview about the images and their meaning – why you took it. There may be 1 to 2 months wait between completion of the Photo/Voice creative work and participating in an interview.

What is involved in a one on one interview?

- The interview will take about 1 hour.
- The interview will occur either face to face, by phone, or by zoom – a video call.
- The interview will be recorded with your permission, so we can review it later with all the other participant 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.
- The research team will upload/copy your images during the interview, and keep as data.
- 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.

What is involved in a group interview?

- The group interview will consist of 2-10 people from similar age, same group membership/affiliation or geographical town. Numbers may vary depending on interest and changing covid-restrictions.
- The group interview will take about 1.5 to 2 hours.

- The group interview will occur either face to face but may be via a zoom – a video call.
- The group interview will be recorded with your permission, so we can review it later with all the other participant interviews to find out the meaning and experience of inclusive communities .
- Your name will not be used in any of the information collected.

The research team will upload/copy your images during the group interview, and keep as data.

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 group 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 the 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.

The **risk of physical discomfort or risk of physical injury** as a result of being preoccupied with taking photos or filming. To avoid this, we ask you to adopt the following strategies:

- You will be asked to go around your community in your usual manner i.e. not do anything you are not accustomed to doing.
- Be aware of the environment at all times, be aware of hazards and take your time as required.
- Properly protect yourself from the sun and ensure you have water
- Only do this activity if comfortable doing so – there are other ways to participate with less impact, for example the questionnaire or storyboard. Go to the project website for more information about ways to get involved:

<https://www.planninginclusivecommunities.com/get-involved>

- Take a person with them if they need help.
- Take a phone with you to call if they need help or injury themselves.

With the group interview, there is also the **risk of social discomfort may occur** due to sharing experiences with other people in a group. There is no requirement to share information you are not comfortable with. We ask you to only share what you are comfortable sharing. There is also no requirement to be in a group interview you can choose to just have a 1:1 interview.

If you do 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 people 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 interview; however, any details that can identify you will be removed from your verbal 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 only talk about 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 stage1a will be shared with the 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 a written consent form (enclosed) 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 consent for you to participate in this research.

We will re-confirm consent with you at the time of the individual or group interview, you will be asked by the researcher to confirm whether you wish to do the activities (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 and consent form has also been developed which can be access here <https://www.planninginclusivecommunities.com/easy-english>. 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. 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

You can also find further information about the project at

<https://www.planninginclusivecommunities.com/>

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.

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