

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 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. We are interested in hearing from people aged 9 years and older with and without disabilities (inc. people with chronic health/ illness, chronic mental health needs, family members or general public) by participating in an interview.

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

What does participation involve?

People aged 9 years and older with or with out disabilities (inc. people with chronic health and mental health needs, family members or general public) will be asked to be involed in an interview.

What is involved in the interview?

The interview will take about 1 hour.

The interview will occur either face to face, by phone, or by zoom – a video call. Please note, that due to varrying COVID-19 restrictions, we may not be able to offer face-to-face interviews.

The interview will be audio recorded with your permission, so we can review it later with all the other participant's interviews to find out the meaning and experince of inclusive communities. With a video call like zoom, only audio recording will be undertaken.

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 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. 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 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 interviews and other data from stage1a will be shared with the two local governments. They will not have access to any identifiable data.

How do I give my consent to participate?

You will be asked to confirm your agreement to participate in this research on the consent form. This tells us that you wish to do the activity (providing your consent), you are aware of what is being asked of you, you have read the participation information, and you are still prepared to participate.

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

The consent form will need to be returned prior to the interview.

On the day of the interview, the researcher will re-confirm that you are still happy to participate in the interview.

An Easy English information sheet and consent form has also been developed, which can be accessed on the project webpage - <https://www.planninginclusivecommunities.com/easy-english>

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.