

Making Communities Inclusive:

Inclusive community planning for people with disabilities in regional areas.

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 190000898

Research team

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 Dr 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.

This information sheet is about completing a short questionnaire to tell us about your ideas and experiences.

We are interested in hearing from any community members living, working or studying in one of the local community areas. This includes: People with disabilities 18 years and older, family members/carers, local council staff, local community organisations and business', and other general community members.

What does participation involve?

You will be asked to **complete 9 questions**, including:

- What does inclusive community mean to you?
- Tell us about how inclusive your own community is for people with disabilities?

The questionnaire is anonymous – meaning we won't know who wrote the responses.

There is an option to upload an image or design with some of the question. If you choose this, please ensure you do not include any identifiable features of people.

We will also review these responses and remove any information that can identify people and location.

You have up to four weeks to complete this questionnaire.

The total time required to complete all questions will be 15 minutes.

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 before submitting your questionnaire online.

However as the questionnaire does not request any personal identifying information, once it has been submitted it will not be possible to withdraw.

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

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

It is expected that participation in this research project will have no direct benefit to you.

However, the outcomes of the research may have 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 able to access a summary of findings from the questionnaire along with other stage 1 non-identifiable findings from the [Planning Inclusive Communities research project webpage](#). A notice will be made on the project website when the findings are available.

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

There are 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.

If you experience discomfort or distress as a result of 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 anonymous responses from the questionnaire 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. This includes written and visual-creative works submitted as part of the questionnaire. Only non-identifiable data will be used in future research.

A summary of findings from the questionnaire, along with other stage 1 non-identifiable data collected will be shared with the two local governments. They will not have access to any identifiable data.

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How do I give my consent to participate?

We invite you to complete the questionnaire in this research.

The submission of the completed questionnaire is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this research project.

Future Use of Information

The consent to participate includes non-identifiable data being made available for research with related aims in the future. This includes written and visual-creative works submitted as part of the questionnaire. 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 the questionnaire

You are asked to complete the questions online using Key Survey via this link:

<https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/193845/f6f3/>



If you have any trouble accessing the link, please email:

inclusivecommunitites@qut.edu.au

Or you can complete the word document or hard copy version.

You can access the word version via project website:

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

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