

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT *Consultations*

National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education – Consultations with young people

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**Project:** National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education

**Project Number:** 39446 (MUHREC)

**Chief Investigator's name:** Dr Naomi Pfitzner  
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**You are invited to take part in a research project on respectful relationships education being done by Monash University.**

Please read all of the information here before deciding if you would like to take part in this research project. If you have some questions, we will be very happy to answer them and you can contact the Chief Investigator Naomi Pfitzner using the phone number or email address listed above.

This research is being completed by Monash University in partnership with Deakin University and the University of Queensland.

### **What is the aim of this research?**

The researchers have been asked by the Australian Government to develop a *National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education* in Australian primary and secondary schools.

The Framework aims to:

- Help schools decide which respectful relationships education program to use in their school.
- The best way to deliver respectful relationships education for different groups of students.

We want to know what young people think are the most important parts of respectful relationships education (also known as RRE). This will help us to make sure that the Framework is relevant and appropriate for everyone.

### **How can I take part in the research?**

You can be a part of the research by participating in an online group discussion about each of the above points. There will be around 15-20 other people in the workshop with you including young people from other student councils and youth groups, as well as professionals from other organisations focused on respectful relationships education.

The online discussion will be hosted by two members of our research team using a video call program like Zoom and will go for around 60-90 minutes.

Before the online discussion, you will be asked to complete a brief, anonymous questionnaire using an online form to collect background information on workshop participants and their organisation's context. The purpose of this questionnaire is to help describe the general profile of the consultation workshop participants within any research outputs.

You will also be asked to read a draft version of the *National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education* before the workshop.

During the online workshop, you will be asked a number of questions about your opinions of RRE in Australia and your feedback on the draft Framework.

**Why are you being invited to participate?**

As a member of a student representative council or youth advocacy organisation, you have been identified as someone who might be interested in contributing to this research. We want to hear your ideas about how RRE can best be delivered for young people from all backgrounds in Australia.

**Who is paying for this research project?**

The Australian Commonwealth Government is paying for this research project through the Department of Education. The Australian Government wants to make sure that quality respectful relationships education is provided to all Australian school students.

Even though the Australian Government is paying for this research, we will not share any information about the research participants in a way that could identify them individually (e.g., no names or other personal details will be shared outside of the research project).

**Agreeing to be part of the research and changing your mind**

Once you have read through this Explanatory Statement, and if you decide you want to take part in this research project, please contact the Chief Investigator Dr Naomi Pfitzner using the contact details on the first page of this document. You can also ask any questions or ask for more information before you decide to participate.

After you contact us and tell us you are interested in participating, you will be invited to attend an online discussion with other young people. We will also share the online Consent Form for the research, the online demographic questionnaire, and a draft outline of the Framework with you. You will be asked to submit the two online forms and read the draft Framework before participating in the online discussion.

You can choose not to answer any questions in the demographic questionnaire. You can also choose not to complete the questionnaire and still take part in the online discussion.

The discussion will also be audio recorded so that we have a copy of the conversations to inform our work on developing the Framework. Your name and personal details will not be included in the copy of the conversations.

You can change your mind and withdraw from the research at any time before or during the online group discussion. However, after the group discussion your de-identified data will be included in the larger data set, and so taking it out will not be possible. As the demographic questionnaire responses will be anonymous, it will also not be possible to remove your information from that data set.

During the online group discussion, you don't have to answer any questions that you don't want to answer. If you can't think of an answer it doesn't matter. If you want to stop or leave at any time during the conversation you can do that.

Nothing you say or do will make any difference to your role in the student representative council or youth organisation that provided you with information about this research project.

**Good things about taking part in the research**

The Australian Government wants to ensure that all children and young people in Australia receive quality respectful relationships education and live lives free from violence. This research is about finding out the best ways to deliver respectful relationships education in schools across Australia. Positive benefits of participating in this research can include feeling you have been provided a meaningful opportunity to have your voice and opinions heard as well as knowing that you have contributed to research that will influence policies and practices that impact on children and young people's lives.

### **Possible bad things about taking part in the research and what happens afterwards**

We do not expect there is a risk of any bad things happening to you from participating in the online group discussion. We do not want you to get upset when you are taking part in the research so if this happens, we can stop. If you feel upset afterwards you can talk to support workers at the organisation that provided you information about this research project or by contacting any of the organisations on the list of support services provided to you.

### **Privacy**

All information collected through the demographic questionnaire will be private and anonymous, and we won't be able to connect that information to anything you say during the online discussion.

We won't share your name or any information that would let someone else know who you are (for example, the name of your school) with anyone outside of the research team. Your name will not be listed in the Final Report, unless you tell us that you would like to be listed as a participant.

After our group conversation the recording will be sent to a business that listens to it and types up everything that is said. This business is called Smartdocs and they also protect everyone's privacy. We have an agreement with Smartdocs that they do not release any information about what they hear.

### **Where is the information kept?**

All demographic information, recordings and written documents are stored in a safe electronic folder that is locked (password protected). The information is stored for at least five years after the research study has ended. If you agree, the information can be used by the same Monash people in other research projects.

### **How can I find out the results of the research?**

Publications from this research project will be made available if the funding body (the Australian Government) agrees to make them publicly available.

When available, these publications will be stored on the Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre's website: <https://arts.monash.edu/gender-and-family-violence>.

### **Letting someone know if you are not happy**

If you are unhappy or have concerns or complaints about something that happens during this research project, you can contact the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee using these details:

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Building 3e  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800  
Email: [muhrec@monash.edu](mailto:muhrec@monash.edu)  
Tel: +61 3 9905 2052  
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Thank you,

**Dr Naomi Pfitzner**  
**Monash University**  
**Chief Investigator – National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education Research Project**