

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Bisexuality, substance use and mental health concerns

Dr John Howard

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:		
Role	Name	Organisation
Chief Investigator	Dr John Howard	UNSW
Co-Investigator/s	Dr Toby Lea	UNSW
Student Investigator/s	Brendan Loiis conducting this study as part of his Medical degree course at the University of New South Wales, under the supervision of Dr John Howard and Dr Toby Lea.	UNSW
Research Funder	This research is being funded by UNSW Medicine.	

What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study, which will involve completing a brief survey about your experiences and views about sexual identity, substance use and mental health.

To participate in this project you need to meet the following inclusion criteria:

- Aged between 18 and 40 years.
- Live in Australia.

The research study is aiming to better understand the relationships between sexual identity, substance use and mental health. You do not need to identify as bisexual and/or same-sex attracted in order to participate.

Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. Your decision will not affect your relationship with The University of New South Wales.

This Participant Information Statement and Consent Form tells you about the research study. It explains the research tasks involved. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Sign the consent form;
- Keep a copy of this Participant Information Statement.

What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to complete a brief online survey about your experiences and views about sexual identity, substance use and mental health. We expect that the survey will take around 15-20 minutes to complete.

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study. However, in rare circumstances some individuals may become distressed during the survey. You are free to end the survey at any time, simply by closing your browser window.

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If you do become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	Beyond Blue (national helpline for people experiencing depression and/or anxiety)
Telephone	1300 22 4636

Name/Organisation	Q Life (national counselling service for LGBTI people)
Telephone	1800 184 527

Will I be paid to participate in this project?

There are no costs associated with participating in this research study, nor will you be paid.

What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope to use information we get from this research study to benefit people who identify as bisexual and same-sex attracted who use substances and may also experience mental health issues. This research will improve our understanding of substance use and mental health among same-sex attracted people, which may assist in the development of more appropriate policies and health services for same-sex attracted people.

What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study. We will keep your data for a period of 7 years. We will store your data securely at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research study and it will only be disclosed with your permission.

It is anticipated that the results of this research study will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that your research findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

You have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. You can do this by contacting a member of the research team.

How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by providing your email address at the end of the survey. This feedback will be in the form of a summary of research findings. You will receive this feedback after the study is finished. Your email address will not be linked to your research data and will be deleted after sending you the research summary.

What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you do withdraw, you will be asked to complete and sign the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document. Alternatively you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate.

If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you.

Submitting your completed questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted the questionnaire. Once you

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have submitted it, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous and therefore we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact

Name	Brendan Loi
Position	Medical student
Email	b.k.loi@student.unsw.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted, then you may contact:

Complaints Contact

Position	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC15579