### Participant Information Sheet

**To:** Survey Participant

**Project Summary**

**Full Project Title:** LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Project

**Principal Researcher:** Dr Polly Bennett

**Project Oversight:** Beth McCann

**Research Contact:** cfre@ds.org.au

**Ethics Approval:**

Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Victoria March 2023

**Application Type:** HREA

**Project ID:** 92860

**Review Reference:** HREC/92860/DOH-2023-354343(v2)

Your consent

You are invited to take part in a survey about health and wellbeing among LGBTIQA+ communities. This survey is shared annually by Drummond Street Services and Queerspace at the Midsumma and Chill Out Festivals, as well as online since 2021. In 2023 this survey forms part of a wider project called *LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Project*, which is funded by the Victorian Department of Health.

This Information Sheet tells you about the survey so that you can make an informed decision about whether you would like to participate. It is also so that you can return to this information later if you have any further questions.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to provide your consent via an online form, at the beginning of the survey. Choosing to consent means that you:

* Understand the information about the survey
* Agree to participate in the survey.

Purpose and background

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the needs of people from LGBTIQA+ communities, including where these needs are being met or where there are gaps and barriers to service access and general wellbeing. The results from this survey will inform Drummond Street Services and the Department of Health, to better support your health and wellbeing needs and those of your families and communities. An important aim is to improve the safety and accessibility of mental health pathways and services for LGBTIQA+ people.

What will be expected of you?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a survey that will take about 20 minutes. This will include questions about you, e.g., age, gender, sexuality, your communities, and identities. Your responses to these questions will help us understand which groups are represented amongst the survey participants.

You will also be asked questions about potentially difficult experiences around mental health, discrimination, and relationships. You are able to skip these questions if you want to. You will also be offered contact details for support services.

What are the possible risks?

Given the sensitivity of some of the questions, there are some potential risks that come with participating in the survey. Some questions include descriptions of family violence, some questions ask about whether you have experienced discrimination, and some questions will ask you to reflect on your mental health during COVID-19 and more generally.

If you are feeling discomfort whilst completing the survey, please take a break, skip difficult questions, or end your participation altogether. You will be able to return to the survey later if you wish. You can also use the ‘Quick Exit’ button at the top right of the screen.

If you are completing the survey in-person, please let a staff member know and they will help you to access any support you may need.

Support

If any of the questions raise anything difficult for you, please reach out to a trusted friend or service that you are connected to.

If you would like information about accessing support, please contact Drummond Street on (03) 9663 6733.

If any of these questions bring up any issues for you after hours, you can also contact:

* Lifeline on 13 11 14, or
* Switchboard where you can speak to a peer LGBTIQ+ phone worker 3pm- Midnight every day on 1800 184 527.

What are the possible benefits?

Your responses will help us develop a better understanding of the health and wellbeing of participants, as well as the diverse needs of people from LGBTIQA+ communities. This knowledge will inform health services, government, and other organisations to better support people from LGBTIQA+ communities. In addition, throughout the survey, you will be provided with opportunities to connect with services should you wish.

What will happen to information about me? (Confidentiality and privacy)

This survey is completely anonymous. You will not be asked to provide your name anywhere in the survey, and data collected as part of this project will not be matched with any individual or identifying information.

Only the researchers directly involved in this project will be able to access the data. Data will be securely stored for seven years after the completion of the project. After this storage period the data will be destroyed securely in line with Drummond Street research data management and disposal policy and procedures.

Results of the project

When we publish or present the results from this survey, there will be no individual information that may identify you because the results will be presented as trends and patterns in health and wellbeing. Once the project is completed, you have the right to request a copy of the results.

Do I have to participate?

No. If you do not wish to take part, then you do not have to. Your participation is voluntary, meaning it is completely up to you whether you take part. Your decision will not impact your relationship with Drummond Street Services or your access to or experience with any programs provided by Drummond Street Services, other services, or government.

You are free to withdraw at any point during the survey. Your responses will only be recorded once you click the ‘Submit’ button. You can also take a break from the survey and return to the survey for later completion (if you use the same computer and internet browser).

Once your data is submitted, it cannot be withdrawn because the survey is anonymous. We cannot tell who made those responses.

Is this project conducted under ethical guidelines?

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of the people who agree to participate in human research studies. The ethical aspects (including this survey) of the *LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Project* have been approved by the Victorian Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Human Research Ethics Committee.

What if I have a complaint or concern?

If you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a participant, then you may contact the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee:

Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee

50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Email: research.ethics@health.vic.gov.au

Where can I get further information or ask questions?

If you require any further information or have any queries, please contact the lead investigator.

Project Lead and Senior Researcher:

Dr Polly Bennett

Email: cfre@ds.org.au

Centre for Family Research and Evaluation

Drummond Street Services

Ph: 03 9663 6733

Go to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YourHealthWellbeing2023>