

The research is being carried out by the following researchers: <b>Associate Professor Jennifer Power</b> <b>Dr Alexandra James</b>		
Role	Name	Organisation
Chief Investigator	Associate Professor Jennifer Power	The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Dr Alexandra James	The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
Co-Investigator	Dr Thomas Norman	The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
<b>Research funder</b>	This research has is funded by the Australian Department of Health.	

## 1. What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study about the ways that parents and carers of school aged children understand topics of sexual literacy, wellbeing and relationships.

We hope to learn how parents and carers feel able to talk to their partners, friends, healthcare providers, counsellors or other professionals, and their children about topics of sex and relationships. The aim to: explore how parent's and carer's class, gender and sexuality shape sexual literacy and experiences of sex and relationships; and, to identify support needs of parents and carer's with respect to sexual literacy and supporting their children's relationship and sexuality education.

This study is focused on parents, carers and families who reside in lower income areas of Victoria. Much of the research on the sexual health education needs of parents and children is focused on well-resourced inner city or inner suburban areas. This research aims to build on existing research by focusing on areas where school and communities may have fewer resources or less engagement with sexual health services.

## 2. Do I have to participate?

Being part of this study is voluntary. If you want to be part of the study we ask that you read the information below carefully and ask us any questions.

You can read the information below and decide at the end if you do not want to participate. If you decide not to participate this will not affect your relationship with La Trobe University or any other listed organisation.

## 3. Who is being asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because:

- You reside in Australia;
- Are aged over 18 years
- Are the parent or carer of a school aged child (aged 5-18)
- Reside in Broadmeadows, St Albans, Doveton, Melton, Corio or Morwell, or surrounds, or are connected to a community service organisation.

## 4. What will I be asked to do?

If you want to take part in this study, we will ask you to participate in a focus group discussion with other parents or carers of school aged children. It will take approximately 1 to 2 hours of your time. Focus groups will take place either via Zoom or face to face in a safe, local meeting venue that provides sufficient privacy to discuss the research topic.

You will be reimbursed a \$50 gift voucher for your participation in this study.

## 5. What are the benefits?

The benefit of you taking part in this study is that you will help to support a greater understanding of the sexual literacy needs of parents and carers and have an opportunity to reflect on your own experiences of learning and talking to your

children about sex and relationships. The expected benefits to society in general are an increase in knowledge and understanding which will provide an informed basis for improving policy and educational responses in this area.

## 6. What are the risks?

With any study there are (1) risks we know about, (2) risks we don't know about and (3) risks we don't expect. If you experience something that you aren't sure about, please contact us immediately so we can discuss the best way to manage your concerns.

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Dr Jennifer Power	Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow	03 9479 8721	jennifer.power@latrobe.edu.au

We have listed the risks we know about below. This will help you decide if you want to be part of the study.

- Participating in this focus group may cause emotional distress in discussing relationships if you have previously experienced harmful relationships.
- Participating in this focus group may cause emotional or psychological discomfort and embarrassment from interview questions about the topic of sex and relationships, however, we hope that this research will provide a safe forum in which you feel comfortable to share your experiences with the interviewer without any fear of judgement.

## 7. What will happen to information about me?

We will **collect** information about you in ways that are identifiable.

We will **store** information about you in ways that are identifiable.

We will **publish** information about you in ways that will not be identified in any type of publication from this study.

We will **keep** your information for 7 after the project is completed. After this time we will destroy all of your data.

The storage, transfer and destruction of your data will be undertaken in accordance with the [Research Data Management Policy](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/) <https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/>.

The personal information you provide will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws, any health information collected will be handled in accordance with the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Subject to any exceptions in relevant laws, you have the right to access and correct your personal information by contacting the research team.

## 8. Will I hear about the results of the study?

We will let you know about the results of the study by sending you the headline findings report once it is available. You will be able to access the full report and any journal outputs from the study on our project website ([www.shper.org](http://www.shper.org)) when these become available.

Because of the group format of a focus group, we cannot send you your individual data.

## 9. What if I change my mind?

If you participate in a focus group, you can terminate your involvement in the focus group at any point during the session. However, it will not be possible to remove the information you provide from the data set.

Your decision to withdraw at any point will **not** affect your relationship with La Trobe University or any other organisation listed.

### 10. Who can I contact for questions or want more information?

If you would like to speak to us, please use the contact details below:

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Dr Jennifer Power	Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow	03 9479 8721	jennifer.power@latrobe.edu.au

### 11. What if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint about any part of this study, please contact:

Ethics Reference Number	Position	Telephone	Email
HEC22373	Senior Research Ethics Officer	+61 3 9479 1443	<a href="mailto:humanethics@latrobe.edu.au">humanethics@latrobe.edu.au</a>

### Consent Form – Declaration by Participant

I (the participant) have read (or, where appropriate, have had read to me) and understood the participant information statement, and any questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in the study, I know I can withdraw at any time until [four weeks] following the collection of my data. I agree information provided by me or with my permission during the project may be included in a thesis, presentation and published in journals on the condition that I cannot be identified.

I would like my information collected for this research study to be:

Only used for this specific study;

I agree to have my interview audio and/or video recorded

Name	Email (optional)	Postal address (optional)

### Participant Signature

I have received a signed copy of the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form to keep

Participant's printed name	
Participant's signature	
Date	

### Declaration by Researcher

I have given a verbal explanation of the study, what it involves, and the risks and I believe the participant has understood;

I am a person qualified to explain the study, the risks and answer questions

Researcher's printed name	
Researcher's signature	
Date	

\* All parties must sign and date their own signature

**Withdrawal of Consent**

I wish to withdraw my consent to participate in this study. I understand withdrawal will not affect my relationship with La Trobe University of any other organisation or professionals listed in the Participant Information Statement. I understand the researchers cannot withdraw my data once it has been collected as part of a focus group.

**I understand my information will be withdrawn as outlined below:**

- ✓ The researchers will withdraw my contact details so I cannot be contacted by them in the future studies unless I have given separate consent for my details to be kept in a participant registry.
- ✓ The researchers cannot withdraw my information once it has been collected as part of a focus group

**Participant Signature**

Participant's printed name	
Participant's signature	
Date	

**Please forward this form to:**

CI Name	A/Prof Jennifer Power
Email	Jennifer.power@latrobe.edu.au
Phone	03 9479 8721
Postal Address	ARCSHS, NR6, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 3086