

Plain Language Statement

Department of General Practice
Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences



Project: Responding to Reproductive Coercion in Australian Primary Care: GP's and women's experiences

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What is this research about?

The purpose of this project is to explore how primary care in Australia responds to reproductive coercion (RC). Research suggests that there is a link between unintended pregnancy and reproductive coercion and intimate partner violence as well as various negative health effects. However, there is very little research in this area, especially in Australia.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate you will be involved in taking part in a short (30 minute) confidential interview, conducted face to face or over the phone with a PhD student, at your convenience. With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded for accurate transcription. What you say in your interview will be combined with the interviews of up to 40 other health professionals.

If you agree to be part of the study, please sign the attached consent form.

What are the possible benefits?

It is possible that you may experience no direct individual benefits from your participation in this research, although you may appreciate the opportunity to reflect on your own practice. Given the lack of research on this topic, you will be making an important contribution towards understanding the issue of reproductive coercion, and how it is currently being responded to in Australia, which may be used to assist in future development of practice guidelines in primary care and beyond.

What are the possible risks?

As the topic is sensitive in nature, there is a possibility that the content of the interview may bring up issues for you that are distressing. If this does occur, you will be given the option to pause or stop the interview and the researcher will explore support options for you post interview.

Although your details will be kept confidential by the research team, there is a possibility that your colleagues may become aware of your participation if you are attending an interview, however this risk is minimal. There is also a small risk of identification due to the small number of participants in this study.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are able to withdraw at any time up until publication of the study findings. If you decide after participating in an interview that you would like to withdraw from the project, you are able to contact the researchers by phone or email and your interview transcript will be withdrawn.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Once the project has been completed and the results analysed, the research team will create a summary of research findings and will provide all participants with a copy. We will also publish our findings in academic journal articles.

What will happen to information about me?

Your data will be de-identified (names removed) and combined with data from up to 30 other health professionals. All information will be kept in a secure location at the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne. There is a possibility that your interview may be transcribed by a transcription service, however the service is bound by confidentiality and your interview will also be de-identified. Your contact details will be stored separately from the interview records.

Information from the interview will be kept confidential by the research team subject to any legal requirements and stored in accordance with The University of Melbourne guidelines for the conduct of research. The research data and records will be kept for a minimum of 5 years after publication, or public release, of the work of the research. It will then be destroyed according to University guidelines. No individuals will be identified in the publications arising from this work.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact Molly Wellington molly.wellington@unimelb.edu.au

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.