

Participant Information Sheet



Project Title

Violence Against Women and Major Sporting Events: An Investigation of the Perceptions of Professionals who Work with Victims of Violence.

An Invitation

My name is Christine Cowan-James. I am a student at AUT University, and currently work in a domestic violence support agency. You are invited to participate in a study about your perceptions of violence against women and its association with major sporting events. This is an opportunity to discuss your experience and will provide valuable information about how support and law enforcement professionals view the relationship between sports events and violence against women. This study is part of a Master of Health Science dissertation at AUT and will be supervised. Your involvement in the study is voluntary, you are under no obligation to take part, and you may withdraw from the research at any time without needing to explain why.

What is the purpose of this research?

This research is being undertaken to increase our knowledge about how professionals who support women victims of violence perceive the impact of major sporting events. This research also meets part of the requirements for a Master of Health Science Honours degree.

How was I identified and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are currently working as a professional in either law enforcement or in a support agency that works with women victims of violence. You may be known to me, or may be part of the same professional network. However, you are under no obligation to take part and can be assured that whatever you decide I will maintain your right to privacy and confidentiality.

What will happen in this research?

If you agree to participate, I will arrange to interview you at a time and location most convenient to you. The interview, which will be mainly a conversation about your views and opinions related to the possible association between violence against women and sporting events, should take no more than an hour. You do not need to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable about, and can share as much or as little information as you wish. You will be free to leave the interview at any time. The session will be audio-taped with your consent so that I am able to transcribe the conversation at a later time, for as part of my analysis. However, you may ask that the recording equipment be turned off at any stage. There will also be an optional *Data Collection Form* to fill in, which asks for information about your age, ethnicity, type of agency you work in and your role within that agency, but not your name or other identifying details.

What are the discomforts and risks?

There is a remote chance that you may find it upsetting talking about your experiences related to violence against women. You may have strong views and opinions about this subject, which could be uncomfortable to talk about. You may be concerned about how confidentiality and privacy will be maintained and what will happen with the information you have provided.

How will these discomforts and risks be alleviated?

The interview will begin with an explanation about how confidentiality and safety will be maintained. You may ask to stop the interview at any time, or ask to have a break. An AUT counselling resource has been provided for on-going support after the interview has ended, if required.

Up to three free counselling sessions are available from AUT Health Counselling and Wellbeing in relation to participation in this study. Ph (09) 921 9992 City campus, or (09) 921 9998 North Shore Campus, to make an appointment. You will need to let the receptionist know that you are a research participant, and provide my contact details.

Website: http://www.aut.ac.nz/students/student_services/health_counselling_and_wellbeing

What are the benefits?

You may benefit by being able to discuss your views, thoughts and perceptions on this topic, and in the process assist our understanding of the relationship between major sports events and violence against women. This may in turn be of help to policymakers, funding bodies, event planners and other professionals who work in this field. You are also benefiting me, in my pursuit of a Counselling Psychology qualification.

How will my privacy be protected?

The interview will begin with an explanation of how your privacy and confidentiality will be maintained. Anything that you discuss with me will not be identifiable or linked to you. Transcripts will not contain your name or any other identifying information. You may provide a pseudonym to be used in the final report, or I will supply one to represent your contribution. You may ask that recording equipment be switched off at any time during the interview. All documentation from this study (including consent forms) will be stored securely at Auckland University of Technology. Transcripts and recordings of the interviews will only be accessed by myself or Rhoda Scherman as my research supervisor, and will be destroyed 6 years after the study has been completed.

What are the costs of participating in this research?

The costs of being a part of this research may include transport costs to the interview venue, possible childcare costs if you have dependent children, and approximately 1 hour of your time in attending the interview. A small koha will be offered to cover childcare and transport costs.

What opportunity do I have to consider this invitation?

You will have two weeks to think about whether you would like to take part in this research. You may like to consult with your wider whanau/family, and may choose to have a whanau/family member present during the interview.

How do I agree to participate in this research?

You will need to complete a *Consent Form* (a copy should be attached to this *Information Sheet*). It is on this form that you'll include your contact details so I can get in touch to schedule the interview. If you agree to participate, please complete the form and post this back to me in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided, by 28 June 2013. I will then contact you to arrange the best time, date, and location to meet.

Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

Yes – a summary of the research findings will be posted online and an URL link will be provided to all participants in the study.

What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance, to the Project Supervisor, Dr Rhoda Scherman, rhoda.scherman@aut.ac.nz (09) 921 9999 ext 7228.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary, AUTEK, Dr Rosemary Godbold, rosemary.godbold@aut.ac.nz, (09) 921 9999 ext 6902.

Whom do I contact for further information about this research?

Researcher Contact Details:

Christine Cowan-James, cowan.james@xtra.co.nz Ph or txt 0274 709659