

Dear service user,

**RE: Ministry of Social Development funded research project exploring the journeys and service needs of men who have experienced sexual abuse (#27115)**

Little attention has been placed on understanding men's experiences and what is required to make support services work for men. As a result, what gender-responsive and male friendly support looks like in Aotearoa/New Zealand remains poorly understood. We want to change this.

We are a New Zealand based research team working with Male Survivors Aotearoa to carry out a project that aims to understand the journeys of men who have experienced sexual abuse, what their needs are, and how they have been met by services in Aotearoa/New Zealand. This project is funded by the Ministry of Social Development and will help to:

- What men go through and what they need.
- What good practice with the men looks like.
- If there are gaps in service delivery or provision.
- How services for men should be designed.

We need to work together with professionals and men like you who have experienced sexual abuse to learn about the journeys and service needs of men. As such we are hoping that you will take part in the project and complete an anonymous online questionnaire so that we can learn from you. We are only involving men who are over the age of 16 because that is the age that people can decide for themselves to take part.

The questionnaire will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. You will be able to take part until the link closes on 15 November 2019.

***Before we go any further please note that if you are in contact with or living with a person(s) who is at risk of harming you should they find out you are taking part in this research study we advise that you do not take part.***

The questionnaire will ask you to tell us some basic demographic information about you and: your experience of sexual abuse and other types of abuse; who you have told about the sexual abuse; how the abuse has impacted you; who you have sought help from; and what you think ideal support should look like for men. All your responses will be anonymous, this means that no one will be able to identify who you are or what you have said.

If you want to take part in this questionnaire but do not have a computer, or have trouble reading or typing, the staff at your service are happy to work with you at the service to help you fill it in. We

will provide funds for you to travel via public transport to do this, just ask the service manager about this possibility.

This note provides a brief introduction to the project. You can learn more details about the project and questionnaire by clicking on the link below, or enter it into your web browser. If you click on the link you can still chose not to start the questionnaire or stop taking part at any time. If you stop taking part we will only those response that you have given us permission to use up until you stopped taking part.

You will see that we are also looking for men to take part in a follow up interview and photography activity. If either of those interest you please follow the online links in the questionnaire to provide your contact details so we can get in touch.

If you have any further questions about the research please also contact me directly, I will be happy to talk to you in more detail about any questions or concerns you may have (email: [louise.dixon@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:louise.dixon@vuw.ac.nz) or telephone: +64 4 453 6548). If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Victoria University HEC Convener: Dr Judith Loveridge (email: [hec@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hec@vuw.ac.nz) or telephone: +64 4 463 6028).

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

*PLEASE TYPE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR INTERNET BROWSER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND START THE QUESTIONNAIRE:*

**[HTTP://VUW.QUALTRICS.COM/JFE/FORM/SV\\_8AJOUEH1NRCHBF](http://vuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/sv_8AJOUEH1NRCHBF)**

Kind regards,



Louise Dixon (Lead Researcher)

Associate Professor  
Director of Forensic Programme  
School of Psychology  
Victoria University of Wellington  
Wellington  
6140, NZ  
[louise.dixon@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:louise.dixon@vuw.ac.nz)  
+64 (0)4 463 6548

**Other researchers' contact details involved with the project:**

- Dr Chris Bowden, Victoria University of Wellington, [chris.bowden@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:chris.bowden@vuw.ac.nz)
- Philip Chapman, Chair Male Survivors Sexual Abuse, [pchapman@ts.co.nz](mailto:pchapman@ts.co.nz)
- David Mitchell, Lecturer, Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, [david.mitchell@nmit.ac.nz](mailto:david.mitchell@nmit.ac.nz)
- Dr Lynne Russell, Senior Research Fellow, Victoria University of Wellington, [lynne.russell@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lynne.russell@vuw.ac.nz)
- Shane Graham, Trustee Male Survivors Aotearoa, [waipuna@inspire.net.nz](mailto:waipuna@inspire.net.nz)