



Information statement

Community Health Clients

Project ID. 49691

Project title. Community Health First Data and Evaluation Project

Who can I contact?

If you have questions about the project, please feel free to reach out to the following

Dr Em Bould

Rehabilitation, Ageing & Independent
Living Research Centre
Email em.bould@monash.edu

Dr Sara Whittaker

Rehabilitation, Ageing & Independent
Living Research Centre
Email sara.whittaker@monash.edu

Other people in the project team

- Associate Professor Natasha Brusco, Director, Rehabilitation Ageing and Independent Living (RAIL) Research Centre, Monash University
- Natalie Sullivan, Monash University PhD candidate and CEO, Each.
- Dr Anneliese Gillard, Project Manager, Each
- Amanda Hummann, Senior Project Officer, Each

This information statement explains the Community Health First Data Project.

The project aims to understand how community health services support the people who use them. We want to show the impact of these services and how they help improve health and wellbeing. We also need state-wide data to ask for long-term funding to support community health services.

This project involves community health organisations across Victoria. It is a partnership between the Community Health First Consortium and the Monash University Rehabilitation, Ageing and Independent Living (RAIL) Research Centre.

Source of funding

This project is funded by the Department of Treasury and Finance, Victorian Government.

Why is this project being done?

We want to better understand community health services and improve how they support people.

Our goals are to

- Show how services improve health and wellbeing
- Understand how services help people stay well at home (and avoid hospital stays)
- Learn what works best for people
- Improve services across Victoria

Who can take part in the research?

You can take part if you

- Live in Australia
- Are aged 18 years or older
- Receive services from a community health organisation that are part of the project

This project does not include

- Children
- People using high-risk or sensitive services (such as family violence, sexual assault, or financial counselling)

What information is being collected?

We will use three types of information

1. **Core Dataset.** This is routine information already collected by your health service, such as
 - your age, gender, country of birth
 - the types of services you use

Information about your current registration status with the community health service will also be collected.

We **do not** collect identifying details like your name or address.

2. **Hospital and service use.** This includes
 - whether you visited the emergency department
 - how many days you spent in hospital in the last 30 days
 - where you would go for care if community health services were not available
3. **Patient reported outcome measures.** This includes your answers about
 - your wellbeing (Personal wellbeing index)

Depending on which services you are engaged with, you may be asked about your

- your quality of life (EuroQol-5 Dimensions Instrument)
- your mental health (Kessler Psychological DistressScale-10)

We **will not** collect information about employment.

We **will not** report individual stories or be able to identify you in any way.

How is my privacy protected?

Your privacy is our top priority.

All data is de-identified before researchers see it. This means your name and contact details (such as address and phone number) are removed.

We use a secure code, commonly used by community health services called SLK581, to link information. This code does not identify you.

Researchers cannot identify you from this data.

Your data is stored on a secure platform and handled with care.

How is the data stored?

Data will be stored securely at Monash University.

Files will be password protected.

Only the research team will have access.

Data will be permanently deleted after 7 years.

Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is your choice.

If you choose not to take part, your care will not be affected. You will continue to receive the same high-quality services.

How do I 'Opt-Out'?

You can opt out at any time.

To do this

- Speak to the receptionist at your community health organisation
- Tell them you do not want your information included
- Your choice will be recorded straight away

Data that has already been shared with Monash University may not be able to be removed.

What are the benefits of taking part in the project?

Taking part may help:

- show how community health services help you and other people
- make community health services better in the future.

Are there any risks?

There are no known risks.

If you feel distressed, the research team can help direct you to support services.

Will I get paid for taking part?

No. There is no payment for taking part.

How will the results be shared?

Results will be shared through:

- A final report to the funder
- Research publications and conferences
- A doctoral thesis
- Partner organisations and social media (if appropriate).

You can request a summary of results by contacting the Monash University research team.

Do any of the research team have a conflict of interest?

Natalie Sullivan is

- Chief Executive Officer of EACH (one of the community health organisations involved in the project), and
- A PhD researcher on this project

To manage any conflict of interest

- All participant communication will be managed independently by the Monash University research team (Dr Em Bould, Dr Sara Whittaker, or Associate Professor Natasha Brusco).

Who can I contact if there is a problem?

If you are not happy at any time, please contact Dr Em Bould or Dr Sara Whittaker.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns or complaints?

If you have any concerns or complaints about this project, you can contact the Executive Officer at Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC).

When you contact them, please mention the project ID **47768**, as they will ask for this.

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
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