



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

**Australian Human Rights Commission
National survey of sexual assault and sexual harassment in university settings**

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this online research study about the prevalence, nature and responses to sexual assault and sexual harassment in Australian universities. You have been invited because as a student at an Australian university, we value your views on how universities should respond to these issues.

To participate in this research study, you need to meet the following inclusion criteria:

- You are currently enrolled in an Australian university; and
- You are 18 years of age or older.

The research study is aiming to collect information that can be used to understand the effectiveness of University responses to a range of incidents, so that they can keep improving their systems.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by Roy Morgan Research, on behalf of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

3. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

4. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire, which will ask you questions about: your personal characteristics (ie: sex, age, gender) your experiences with sexual assault and sexual harassment and your views on the university's approach to dealing with sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The survey will also ask questions about any experiences of sexual assault and/or sexual harassment that you may have had while at university. Reading and answering these questions may trigger difficult memories for you. If you decide to complete this survey but find either during the survey or after completing it that the memories are causing you distress, counsellors are available through:

- 1800RESPECT (24/7 counselling service);
- Your university's on-campus counselling service;
- Local sexual assault service/rape crisis centre.

We expect this survey to take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete. There are no costs associated with participating in this research study.

5. What are the possible benefits to participation?



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We hope to use information we get from this research study to benefit all students at Australian universities, by ensuring that their views and concerns are heard by universities, so that they can continue to improve their responses to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

6. What will happen to information about me?

By completing and submitting this survey, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study. We will store information about you in an electronic format at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Information will only be used for the purposes of producing reports on the results of the survey and will be stored in accordance with the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth), the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986* (Cth).

This survey is completely anonymous – you will not be asked to provide your name, student number or other contact details at any stage.

7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The Australian Human Rights Commission intends to publish a report of the results of the research study in a variety of ways.

This report will be available online, via the Australian Human Rights Commission website in late 2016. The Commission will also produce 39 reports of the survey results for each university. These will be provided to universities on a confidential basis, however universities may choose to release their reports publicly.

All information published will be done in a way that will not identify you.

You can register your interest in receiving updates on the survey project and in being notified when the report is published on the Australian Human Rights Commission's website (insert link).

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by contacting the research team at the Australian Human Rights Commission on the details provided below.

9. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

10. Research Team Contact Details

Name	Matt Hall/Camilla Gebicki
Position	Adviser
Telephone	02 9284 9600
Email	universitiesproject@humanrights.gov.au

11. Support Services Contact Details



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What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted, then you may contact:

Complaints Contact

Position	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Number	Reference HC16136



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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research project;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes and risks of the research described in the project;
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I understand that I can download a copy of this consent form from (weblink).

I agree, start questionnaire