

Research Project Information Sheet



Examining Support Systems for Australian Men Coping with Stillbirth.

Ethics Approval Number: S231887

Research Team Contact Details

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Project Description

The purpose of this research project is to explore the role of social media support groups in the grieving process of Australian men and women who have lost a child due to stillbirth. Through this research, we hope to build a better understanding of the thoughts, feelings and lived experiences of men and women who have utilised these groups, specifically, what aspects of social media helped or hindered their grieving process. It is hoped that this knowledge will contribute to the evidence base that guides practitioners, services, and policies concerning the needs and rights of parents who have experienced a stillbirth.

If you are a parent who has experienced a stillbirth, we would like to invite you to participate in this study. To be eligible to participate in the study, you must reside in Australia and be over 18 years of age.

Participation

If you agree to participate in this research project, you will be asked to complete a short 15–30-minute anonymous survey regarding your experience with using online support groups during your grief journey. Upon completion of the survey, you will have the option to provide your details to be invited to take part in a follow up interview of approximately 30-60 minutes to share more about your experience. The interview may be done in-person or via Zoom at a mutually convenient time, and, with your permission, the interview will be audio recorded. The survey and interview will ask questions such as: Why you did/did not access online support? How you found out about the online support group? What aspects of the group you found helpful/unhelpful for your grief journey?

Your participation is voluntary, and you can stop the online survey at any time. If you decide to take part in an interview, you are free to stop the interview at any time and withdraw from the study.

Consent

Consent to participate in the survey will be confirmed by clicking a button before progressing, and you will be asked to provide written consent for the interview. Consent for the survey is for your data to be collected, stored, and used in a non-identifiable format. Consent for the interview is for your data and information to be collected in an identifiable format, stored in a non-identifiable format, and used in analysis and publications in a non-identifiable format.

Consent is sought for this project and for related, ethics approved, projects that may be undertaken by this research team.

Risks and Benefits

There are minimal risks associated with your participation, which may include emotional discomfort or distress due to the nature of the topic which may raise uncomfortable or upsetting feelings, and inconvenience due to the time commitment of participation.

Sometimes thinking about the themes discussed in the survey and/or interview can create uncomfortable or distressing feelings. **You are not required to answer questions if you wish not to, and you may discontinue or pause the survey/interview at any time if required.** The style of interview is 'conversational' and is guided by your lived-experience and what you choose to discuss and disclose.

If you need to talk to someone you may wish to contact family or friends/ your General Practitioner/ Lifeline (13 11 14)/ Beyond Blue (1300 224 636)/ Bears of Hope (1300 11 HOPE)/ Sands Australia Miscarriage Stillbirth Newborn Death Support (1300 308 307) <https://www.sands.org.au/>.

It is not anticipated that this research project will directly benefit you, but we appreciate your input as a contribution to the knowledge base for practitioners, services and policies that work with, and impact on, parents impacted by stillbirth.

Privacy, Confidentiality and Results

Any data collected as a part of this research project will be stored securely as per UniSC's Research Data Management Procedures. All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law.

All identifying details will be removed prior to storage.

The research team will not be able to identify you if you take part in the online survey only. However, the research team will be able to identify you if you choose to participate in the interview. Interview transcriptions will be de-identified and stored in a non-identifiable format. You will need to consent to audio recordings of the interview. Audio recording is used to ensure accurate transcription of the content discussed. Recordings will be destroyed at the end of the project. Only the research team will have access to the recording.

The results of this research project may be presented at external or internal conferences or meetings, or by publication. If you would like a summary of findings of this research project, please contact the Chief Investigator (listed above).

Concerns or Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the way this research project is being conducted, you can raise them with the Chief Investigator (listed above). If you prefer an independent person, you may contact the Chair of the UniSC Human Research Ethics Committee: telephone (07) 5430 2823; email humanethics@usc.edu.au.

Please save the information above if you choose to participate.



University of the
Sunshine Coast
Australia

Consent to Participate in Interview

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- I have read, understood, and kept a copy of the Research Project Information Sheet. Any questions I have about my participation have been answered and I consent to participate.
- I consent to my responses being saved and used for related, ethics approved, projects undertaken by this research team.
- I consent to the research team retaining my contact details so that I can be invited to participate in future related research.

Name

Signature

Date