

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**  
***Crime Prevention in Small Regional Communities***  
**UTS HREC APPROVAL NUMBER ETH17-1705**

**WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?**

We are a team of researchers from University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The team includes Associate Professor Douglas Tomkin, Dr Rohan Lulham, Dr Lindsay Asquith, Lissa Barnum, Kate Elton, Bridget Malcolm, and Kim Wan.

**WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?**

This research is to find out about approaches to crime prevention from the perspective of a small, remote, regional communities. The research will ask participants about their experiences around crime and safety based on living in a small regional community.

**FUNDING**

The research has been commissioned by our funding partner NSW Department of Justice, the findings of which will provide strategic context for the Justice Strategy and Policy group.

**WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?**

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a member of a small regional community in NSW with valuable lived and/or professional experience.

**IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?**

If you decide to participate, we may invite you to participate or agree to a number of activities. You can agree to be a participant in some aspects of the research and not others.

You may be invited to individual or group discussions about your experiences in relation to crime and safety in your community.

- Individual discussions will take between 10 minutes and 1 hour, with the average being 30 minutes
- Group discussions, such as focus groups, will take between 1-3 hours.
- We will also ask your permission to do an audio recording of these sessions

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?**

Yes, there are some risks/inconvenience. Discussing your experiences related to crime and safety in your community could raise issues that are emotional or distressing. You could also find participating tiring or a distraction from your work. If you feel uncomfortable in any way, you can withdraw from the session immediately, and restart if/when you feel up to it again.

**DO I HAVE TO SAY YES?**

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?**

If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the researchers. If you wish to withdraw from the study once it has started (or withdraw from a part of the study), you can do so at any time without having to give a reason. If you do wish to withdraw please let one of UTS researchers know you would like to withdraw. If you choose to withdraw, you will have the option of requesting we destroy any identifiable recordings, transcripts, and other data related to you.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

By signing the consent form you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. Anything you say will be de-identified and not be attributed to you. The information will be pooled and analysed alongside many other data we will collect.

All this information will be treated confidentially and kept on a password protected server within a locked research office that only the UTS researchers can access. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and may only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law. We may discuss and publish the results of the project in the future but in any publication the information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

#### WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research that you think we can help you with, please feel free to contact the project coordinator at [kim.wan@uts.edu.au](mailto:kim.wan@uts.edu.au)

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

#### NOTE:

This study has been approved by the University of Technology Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee [UTS HREC]. If you have any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the conduct of this research, please contact the Ethics Secretariat on ph.: +61 2 9514 2478 or email: [Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au](mailto:Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au), and quote the UTS HREC reference number. Any matter raised will be treated confidentially, investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.

**CONSENT FORM**  
**'Crime Prevention in Small Regional Communities'**  
**(UTS HREC REF NO. ETH17-1705)**

I \_\_\_\_\_ [participant's name] agree to participate in the research project 'Crime Prevention in Small Regional Communities' (UTS HREC REF NO. ETH17-1705) being conducted by Associate Professor Douglas Tomkin and team from the University of Technology Sydney (ph 029514 3897).

I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research as described in the Participant Information Sheet.

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 project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time without affecting my relationship with the researchers or the University of Technology Sydney.

I understand that I can agree to participate in some activities and not others.

I agree to:

- ☐ individual discussions.  
☐ group discussions.

I agree to be:

- ☐ audio recorded.

I agree that the research data gathered from this project may be published in a form that:

- ☐ does not identify me in any way.  
☐ may be used for future research purposes.

I am aware that I can contact Douglas Tomkin and team if I have any concerns about the research.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature [participant]

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature [researcher or delegate]

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature [witness\*]

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\* Witness to the consent process**

If the participant, or if their legally acceptable representative, is not able to read this document, this form must be witnessed by an independent person over the age of 18. In the event that an interpreter is used, the interpreter may not act as a witness to the consent process. By signing the consent form, the witness attests that the information in the consent form and any other written information was accurately explained to, and apparently understood by, the participant (or representative) and that informed consent was freely given by the participant (or representative)