

Participant Information Sheet



THE MARCH 15 PROJECT: IMPACTS AND RECOVERY

Locality: University of Otago, Christchurch

Ethics ref: 19/NTA/147

Project lead: Dr Caroline Bell

Contact phone number: 03 3726700

السلام عليكم

You are invited to take part in a project to understand the impact that the March 15 terrorist attacks have had on the Christchurch Muslim community. We want to speak to as many people as possible, even those who feel they have coped well.

You are invited to take part in this project because:

- You, or your family members, were present or nearby one of the two mosques on 15 March 2019
- You are a close family member of one of the *shuhada* or injured.
- You are a member of the Christchurch Muslim community who was in Christchurch during or immediately following the attacks, and is currently living in Canterbury

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you would like to take part in the project. It sets out why we are doing the project, what your participation will involve, what the benefits and possible risks to you might be, and what will happen after the project ends. We will go through this information with you and answer any questions you may have.

If you agree to take part in this project, you will be asked to provide consent. You will be given copies of the Participant Information Sheet and the Consent Form for your own future reference.

Please make sure you have read and understood all the pages. If you have any questions, please ask.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT?

This is the first stage of a long-term project to explore how people are coping and responding to March 15 over time. We use a variety of measures to assess social, psychological, spiritual factors and Covid-19 impacts. Following the interview, if the participant or research nurse identify supports that might be helpful, we can help to arrange referrals to appropriate services.

We expect interviews for this stage to continue until the end of 2021.

This project is being conducted by Associate Professor Caroline Bell, Dr Ruqayya Sulaiman-Hill, Professor Richard Porter, Dr Ben Beaglehole, Professor Joseph Boden and Dr Shaystah Dean at

the Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch and Professor Philip Schluter at the School of Health Sciences, University of Canterbury. It is funded by grants from the Health Research Council of New Zealand and Canterbury Medical Research Foundation.

The project has received ethical approval from the Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC) Ethics ref: 19/NTA/147.

WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

If you decide to take part in this project, you will have an online or face-to-face interview by one of our Muslim research team (or a non-Muslim interviewer if you prefer) and a specialist research nurse. We will try to make sure that the interviewer speaks your preferred language. **The interview will probably take about two hours.**

We would like to reassure you that we will not be asking you to go over the March 15 incident itself in detail.

During the interview you will complete a series of questionnaires about how you have been coping, your psychological and physical health. Some other questions ask about your support networks, religious coping methods, Covid-19 impacts and general questions about you and your family. There is also a clinical component to assess wellbeing. This involves the nurse asking you some questions about how you are doing.

We also want to understand any potential impacts on your physical health and how this may have changed. To do this we ask for your consent to use your unique NHI (National Health Index) number, so we can compare the number of times you saw a health provider 5 years before and after 15 March while you are still in the project (this is only for the number visits, not the reason for the visit). You can opt out of agreeing to this on the consent form. You will also be asked if you agree to further contact from the research team about future studies looking into the longer-term impacts of 15 March.

ONLINE INTERVIEWS DONE VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID19

As a result of Covid-19 Alert Level restrictions, we can now do interviews via the internet using Zoom telehealth with online questionnaires. This option is also available in addition to face to face interviews, if you prefer.

Zoom is a platform for online video conference calls. This is free for you and you can access it by clicking on the link that we will email to you. You will need wifi or data and a computer with a camera so that we can see each other. If your computer does not have a camera, please discuss this with us. The University uses the full function Zoom platform with a complete range of security features for your protection.

Throughout the Zoom interview we will have a Muslim research assistant and research nurse present who can explain what to do and answer any questions you might have.

It is very important that your interview is done in a private place where you will not be interrupted nor overheard (especially by children). We will also ask you for the phone contact

details of someone close to you who could provide you with support if you need it during the interview.

Questionnaire responses are gathered using a secure electronic survey platform and will be stored in a non-identifiable format.

We will not record any Zoom sessions, and we request that you don't either. If you want additional information about Zoom telehealth, please see the separate document.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF THIS PROJECT?

What are the possible advantages in taking part in the project?

We hope to gain a greater understanding of the impact of March 15 on those most affected, even if they feel they have coped well. People will have different responses so we need to ask everyone the same questions to work out what individuals have found helpful and what other things they might require.

Following the interview, if there is anything identified by you or the nurse where further support might be helpful, we will discuss possible referral options with you. This could be for community supports, help with practical issues, or interventions through your GP, or other health specialists.

The experience gained by the research team will help to build a resource for culturally competent health practices. The high visibility and interest in this project will help to focus attention on some of the difficulties the Muslim community may face and showcase the positive aspects of the response for which New Zealand and the local Muslim community have been praised. We also hope that information from this project can be used to help in the planning and recovery process in the event of similar situations, in New Zealand or overseas.

What are the possible risks involved in taking part in the project?

We understand that some of the material being discussed will be potentially distressing for some people. If you do become upset, the nurse can provide support and clinical intervention if appropriate. Where any potential wellbeing concerns or risks are identified, a referral will be made to appropriate treatment providers. If you or your family feel that the process is causing too much distress, you can withdraw from the project at any time.

WHO PAYS FOR THE PROJECT?

There are no costs to you.

As an appreciation you will receive \$50 in the form of vouchers for your time as part of this project.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Do I have to take part?

Whether or not you take part in this project is your choice. If you don't want to participate, you don't have to give a reason. You do not have to answer any questions you don't want to answer, and you also have the right to review your answers and make changes.

You do not have to decide now whether you want to participate in this project. Before you decide you may want to talk about it with other people, such as family/whānau, friends, or healthcare providers. Feel free to do this.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All information that you provide us is treated in the utmost confidence. Confidentiality is vitally important and we ensure that this is maintained. The research team have all received confidentiality training and signed statements to say they will not discuss any information about you with anyone outside of the team.

The phone numbers for the different languages are listed below and the names of the Muslim interviewers are on the website otago.ac.nz/march. You can choose who you see. It is possible that you will know the person interviewing you as they will be a member of your community, however they will keep your information private and will never talk about the interview to other members of the community.

Your identity will not be revealed in any reports based on this project. All reports will be averaged and anonymous so individuals cannot be identified.

We will hold the research information about you securely in de-identified format using an ID number in the Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch for 10 years. Only investigators directly involved in the project will have access to this information. Some data may be available to use in future research, but this would only be accessible to researchers.

You have the right to access information collected about you as part of the project.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROJECT OR IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

If you do want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can withdraw from the project at any time.

What will happen to the results of the research?

We plan to complete interviewing by the end of 2021. Findings will be presented to the local Muslim community. They will also be submitted for publication in science journals and presented at national and international conferences. The identity of the participants will not be made public in any publications or presentations.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF I HAVE CONCERNS?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the project at any stage, the researchers are happy to discuss this with you. They can be contacted by phoning or texting one of the research team during work hours. All interviewers speak English.

- 0212790058 English
- 0212792089 Arabic
- 0212790660 Bangla
- 0212791668 Farsi
- 0212791307 Somali
- 0212792058 Turkish
- 0212790459 Urdu/Hindi

Or emailing march15study@otago.ac.nz

If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the project, you can contact an independent health and disability advocate on:

Phone: 0800 555 050
Fax: 0800 2 SUPPORT (0800 2787 7678)
Email: advocacy@advocacy.org.nz

For Maori health support please contact:

Rachel Day-Brown
Phone: 03 3726700

You can also contact the health and disability ethics committee (HDEC) that approved this project on:

Phone: 0800 4 ETHICS
Email: hdecs@moh.govt.nz

Jazakum Allahu Khair, Wa Asalaamu Alaykum