



## Rangatahi Drug Realities

### INFORMATION SHEET

Kia ora! You're invited to take part in a study called 'Rangatahi Drug Realities'. This information sheet will help you decide if you'd like to take part. It explains what the study is about, and what taking part will involve for you.

#### **What is the study about?**

The study aims to find out how young people navigate substance use, including nicotine, alcohol and other drugs that change the way you think, feel or behave (not medicines that you take as prescribed). We're interested in what young people see as the risks and benefits of substance use, and the different things they do to minimise the negatives and maximise the positives. To do this, we want to talk to young people who have been impacted by drugs, whether that is from their own, or someone else's drug use.

By getting a better understanding of young peoples' experiences and perspectives, the research will also inform local and national work that aims to promote wellbeing and reduce substance-related harm for young people.

#### **Who has been invited to take part?**

We want to hear from young people in Aotearoa aged 16 - 20 years with diverse backgrounds and interests. To be eligible for the study, you must have experienced at least one negative consequence related to nicotine, alcohol or other drug use (either your own, or someone else's use). By negative consequences we mean anything from having a hangover, or breathing in someone's tobacco smoke, to attempting suicide or being assaulted due to the influence of substances.

We would like to talk to pairs of friends who both meet the study criteria above. If you'd rather be interviewed by yourself (not with a friend) that's fine too.

#### **What will I have to do?**

We will interview you at a time and place that suits you, either with a friend or by yourself. The interview will take about 60 minutes. Interviews will mainly be held in-person, but we can also interview online (using Zoom) if that's more convenient. We have a range of different interviewers available, and we will try our best to line you up with any personal preferences (e.g. woman, LGBTQ+) you may have.

The interviews will be audio recorded so that the interviewer can focus on listening to you, rather than taking notes.

A token of thanks (a \$50 GiftPay voucher) will be offered to each person who participates.

You are welcome to bring a support person with you to the interview if you wish. This could be a friend (aged 16 or older) who doesn't want to participate, a whānau member, or another person you trust. The interview will still focus on your experiences and views.

If the support person is present for the interview, the researchers will ask them not to answer questions on your behalf, unless this is needed to support communication (e.g. interpretation or communication support). Support people will be asked to keep the conversation private, and the researchers will ask support people to sign consent form to ensure this. However, having another person present means that absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, as the support person will hear what is discussed.

### **What will the interviewer ask about?**

The interviews will cover topics related to drug use. This will include things like how your own or other people's drug use has impacted you in good and bad ways, and any concerns you have about drugs. We're also interested in what you think society (the government, schools, police, health services etc) should do to try and reduce drug-related harm for young people.

We will ask a lot of different questions, but you don't have to discuss anything you're not comfortable talking about. You can say "I don't want to talk about that" and the interviewer will move on to the next question.

### **Is it anonymous?**

The interviewers will keep what you say in the interviews confidential (we won't tell anyone outside the research team what you said, including about illegal drug use). The only exception is if we have serious and immediate concerns about you harming yourself or others, or other people harming you. In that case, we would pause the interview and talk with you about support options, working with you to decide what feels appropriate.

For those taking part in the interview with a friend, we will ask you and your friend to keep the discussion confidential.

When we present the findings, we will be careful not to share any information that might identify you. The findings will be about general patterns across the interviews, rather than focusing on one person or a single interview. To support our findings, we may use some of your quotes alongside a name you choose.

### **Are there any risks to taking part?**

Sometimes the discussion can bring up memories or issues that make you feel upset or worried. It's fine to skip topics you don't want to discuss and you can end the interview at any time without giving a reason. We will give you information about where you can get support.

Although we will ask friendship pairs to keep the discussion that happens in their interview private, it is up to you and your friend to not share anything from the discussion with anyone else. The same applies when a support person comes to the interview.

Please note that the interviewers must report serious and current safety concerns (e.g. suicide plan and intention, domestic violence, threatening someone else, or neglect) to relevant agencies.

**What if I want to talk to someone after taking part?**

We will give you information about people and organisations who can support you. If you are meeting at a service you are involved with, we can organise for you to see your counsellor/support/peer worker afterwards.

**Do I have to take part?**

No! You can choose to take part or not. If you decide not to take part, you don't have to give a reason.

If you want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can delete the information you shared up to one month following your interview, no questions asked. Please just let the research lead or your interviewer know.

**Do my parents need to provide consent?**

No. Participants aged 16 years or older do not require parental consent. You are not eligible to take part if you are aged under 16.

**What will happen to my information?**

The interview recordings will be transcribed (typed out), and any information that might identify you or your friends will be removed. You can choose a pseudonym (a fake name) that will be used instead of your real name. We will use research tools to look for patterns across all of the interviews.

Eventually, you will be able to see summary findings on our project website (<https://www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch/departments/populationhealth/research/youth-drug-harm-in-aotearoa>). We will present the findings in academic journals, at conferences, and in seminars. If invited, we may present findings to community groups. We will do everything we can to protect your privacy and confidentiality.

We will store your name and contact details in a separate file from the interview transcripts, and these personal details will be destroyed after the interviews are completed, unless you give consent to be contacted about future research. The audio recording of your interview will also be deleted at the end of the study.

The transcripts will be kept indefinitely in a secure password-protected file. With your consent, these may be re-analysed for future projects with related aims. If other researchers wish to be involved and use this data, they must have approval from and involve the original researchers in the project to ensure the data is used appropriately and utilised for the benefit of youth and people who use drugs.

**Who is paying for the study?**

The study has been funded by the New Zealand Health Research Council. This is a government agency that invests in high-quality research to improve health and wellbeing.

**Who is carrying out the study?**

The research team are from the University of Otago. There are five interviewers: Jai Whelan (Māori, Christchurch), Michaela Pettie (Māori, Wellington), Sarah McLean Orsborn (Pacific, Auckland), Jude Ball (Pākehā, Wellington), and the project leader Rose Crossin (Pākehā, Christchurch). They are all friendly and non-judgmental, and are looking forward to talking with you! There is more information about the team on the project webpage.

**Who do I contact for more information, or if I have concerns?**

If you have any questions or concerns about the study please contact the research team lead, Rose Crossin ([rose.crossin@otago.ac.nz](mailto:rose.crossin@otago.ac.nz)).

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or concerns about the ethical conduct of the research, you can contact the Committee through the Otago Human Ethics Committee Administrator (phone +64 3 479 8256 or email [humanethics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@otago.ac.nz)). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.

**What happens next?**

If you're interested in taking part, please fill in the online expression of interest form, <https://redcap.link/0uct7ezq>. You will be asked to provide contact details and information about yourself e.g. age, gender.

An interviewer will be in touch shortly after to answer any questions and arrange a suitable time and place for the interview.

If you have questions, we are very happy to answer them. You can contact the project lead, Rose Crossin: [rose.crossin@otago.ac.nz](mailto:rose.crossin@otago.ac.nz) – or talk to your interviewer on the day.