

Participant Information Letter

Project title: Enhancing climate justice and disaster resilience in the Western Australian community services sector

Approval Number: HREC1327 (Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee) and 2024-05712-GODDEN (Edith Cowan University)

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Naomi Godden

Other investigators: Dr Libby Jackson-Barrett (ECU), Prof Janine Joyce (ECU), Dr Julie Nyanjom (ECU), A/Prof Mehran Nejati (ECU), Dr Shajimon Peter (ECU), Dr Susan Bailey (ECU), Uncle Roger Turvey (Healthy Environments and Lives Network WA Aboriginal Steering Group), Jo Taylor (The Kids Research Institute Australia), Ms Bronte Alston (ECU), Ms Raphaela Raaber (ECU), Ms Jaime Yallup Farrant (Climate Justice Union), Dr Kylie Wrigley (ECU), Ms Joanne Hill (ECU)

An invitation to participate in research data collection

You are invited to attend a training workshop about climate justice and community-led disaster resilience. This workshop is associated with a research project titled 'Enhancing Climate Justice and Disaster Resilience in the Western Australian Community Services Sector.' The aim of this project is to support Western Australian community service organisations to respond to the social justice impacts of climate change and disasters in their programs and operations.

If you attend a workshop, you will have the option to take part in data collection activities that involve collecting information that you share for the purpose of research. You can still attend the workshop if you choose not to take part in the data collection activities.

Before deciding whether to take part in the data collection activities, please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about. You might want to talk about it with a colleague, relative or friend. During the workshop, you will be reminded about the research project and will have the opportunity to ask questions.

If you decide you want to take part in any of the data collection activities, you should keep a copy of this Participant Information Letter and you will have several opportunities to give your consent. By giving consent, you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read;
- Consent to take part in the data collection activities as described;
- Understand how the information you share will be used;

What is this project about?

Community service organisations provide a range of services and programs for communities who often also experience the greatest impacts of climate change and social injustice. However, many WA community service organisations have a limited understanding of climate justice and disaster resilience.

To support organisations and communities, this project has involved a wide collaboration to co-create a *Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit* (the *Toolkit*) and deliver training workshops across WA. The Toolkit and workshops provide tools and resources to help community service organisations build knowledge and skills to effectively support communities affected by climate change and disasters. The Toolkit will continually be improved and adapted to WA communities and organisations based on feedback, partnerships, and workshops.

This project is a collaborative project made possible by many people, partners, and funders. It is governed by an Aboriginal Steering Group (thanks to Healthy Environments and Lives Network WA) and a Lived Experience Advisory Group (thanks to Climate Justice Union) and a Stakeholder Committee that includes community service staff and representatives of the ASG, LEAG and researchers. This project is funded by Lotterywest, the Commonwealth Government with support from the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and Edith Cowan University's Centre for People, Place and Planet.

What does my participation involve?

As part of the training workshops, you will have the option to participate in several activities where we will collectively explore the following themes: 1) localised experiences of climate change and social justice; 2) how community services integrate climate justice and disaster resilience into their policies, practices, services and/or programs; 3) how community services engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and People with Lived Experience; and 4) how to support communities and community service organisations with climate justice and disaster resilience.

As we explore these themes in the workshop, we will collect information using the following data collection methods:

- (1) **Collective storyboarding:** Small groups collectively document their discussions about the workshop themes using butcher's paper (in person) or Padlet/Google documents (online).
- (2) **Facilitators' note-taking:** Co-facilitators who are members of the research team may take notes during each workshop and use reflective journaling after each workshop about the workshop context, process-oriented reflections, personal reflections, and themes emerging from group discussions.
- (3) **Visual scribing:** During the workshop, a professional visual scribe may be present to listen, draw and document the general themes and discussion of the workshop.
- (4) **Workshop evaluation form:** At the end of the workshop, an optional evaluation form will be provided to you help us evaluate the workshop and understand how the project can support your next steps.

In addition, you will have the option to participate in the following surveys before and after the workshop:

- (5) **Pre-workshop survey:** If you register for a workshop, an optional online survey will be emailed to you to gather your understanding, experiences, and perspectives related to climate justice, disaster resilience, and community services.
- (6) **Follow-up survey:** About six months after the workshop, an optional survey will be emailed to you to evaluate the impact of the workshop and understand how community services are integrating climate justice and disaster resilience, what tools and resources may help and what other support our project and toolkit can offer.

In all the activities described above, your name or any other identifying details about you will not be collected. Please be aware that participants, facilitators and researchers present during the workshop may know you personally and as such, you need to be comfortable participating in the context of these relationships.

Do I have to take part in this research project?

Your attendance at a workshop means that you will be invited to take part in the optional data collection activities described above where the information you provide will be collected. You may still participate in the workshop even if you do not want to take part in the data collection.

If you decide to take part in a data collection method described above, you should understand and agree that the information you share and the collectively produced materials you contribute to will be collected.

If you do not wish to participate in a data collection methods described above, you can either indicate this when you register or during the workshop. To opt out, simply do not contribute to the methods and/or ask for your data not to be recorded by others.

If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw, the information that you have provided up to the time of withdrawal may remain as part of the data collected. If you want to change or withdraw the information you provided, please let the workshop facilitators know *before* leaving the workshop or contact the researcher named at the end of this letter within seven days of completing the workshop or a survey. We will attempt to remove information, if we can locate it, given the data will be de-identified.

Your information and privacy

The information you provide will be kept anonymous so you cannot be identified. All data collected will be kept and stored in ECU's secure server for seven years. The data may be reused for further research studies, and for comparative studies with other communities.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Western Australian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this letter if you would like to access your information.

Outputs created from the research will not include your name and identifying information. Outputs may include resources for the Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit, community information sheets, reports, case studies, research articles, theses, book chapters, and presentations.

Intellectual Property

All researchers and workshop participants will respect and not assert ownership rights of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property, and will not use any Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property without consent.

Possible Benefits

By participating in the workshop and data collection activities, you may improve your understanding of climate justice issues and you may develop skills to help you, your organisation and community integrate climate justice and disaster resilience into community services. You may find out how to access a range of other tools and resources in the Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit and elsewhere. You may connect with other people and organisations that can form a supportive network. In addition, some participants can enjoy the following:

- If your profession requires Continuing Career Development, you may be able to count your participation in the workshop towards these hours and should indicate this if/when you register
- If you are an Elder or person with Lived Experience, you may be eligible for honoraria or remuneration for your participation and should indicate if you would like this if/when you register.
- If you complete the follow-up survey, you may choose to enter a prize draw for a \$50 gift voucher.

By participating in the workshop and data collection activities, you are helping to understand how community service organisations can better respond to climate justice and disaster resilience issues. Your participation and the information you share through these data collection activities may help to produce and refine tools and resources for the online Toolkit. Some of the information you share will help to evaluate the workshops and inform future workshops.

Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan

There are few known risks to participants in this project. There is a low risk of emotional distress for anyone who participates because climate change and injustice are not easy topics to discuss. There is a low risk that you may experience mild discomfort taking part in discussions and workshops with people that you may know. The workshops will have some ground rules to help ensure everyone's privacy and safety. If you become upset or distressed due to participating, we will debrief with you and provide information about support services. If you do not wish to participate in a workshop activity, you do not have to, and you may immediately stop participating or temporarily step out.

Contacts

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this project, my contact details are as follows:

A/Prof Naomi Godden

Centre for People, Place and Planet
Edith Cowan University
P: 9780 7670
E: n.godden@ecu.edu.au

If you have any concerns or complaints about the research project and wish to talk to an independent person, you may contact:

Human Research Ethics Officer

Western Australia Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee
P: (08) 9227 1631
E: ethics@ahcwa.org

Independent Person

Research Ethics Support Officer
Edith Cowan University
P: 6304 2170

Sincerely,

Associate Professor Naomi Joy Godden

Chief Investigator, ECU South West