

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher: The research is being led by Associate Professor Rebecca McKetin from the ANU's Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, which is part of the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment.

Project Title: Research into Methamphetamine Use in the ACT

General Outline of the Project:

Description, methods and participants: The aim of this study is to understand the extent and nature of methamphetamine use in the ACT and what health services are needed to help people who use methamphetamine. We will survey 200 people from the ACT community who use methamphetamine at least monthly to find out about who uses the drug, their patterns of methamphetamine and other drug use, their health and well-being, sexual health, criminal involvement, contact with health services, and any barriers to accessing those services.

Participants: You are being invited to participate in this project because you are at least 18 years of age, you have consumed methamphetamine at least six times in the past six months, you have not been in drug treatment, prison or hospital in the past month, and you understand English.

Use of data and feedback: The data from the project will be provided in a report to ACT Health, published in academic journals, presented at conferences and used by research students to complete their research degrees. The data will be collected, stored and presented in a way that you cannot be identified. A summary of the findings will be available on the ANU's website at <http://rsph.anu.edu.au/>

Project funding: The project is being funded by ACT Health.

Participant Involvement:

Voluntary participation and withdrawal: Your participation is voluntary and you may, without penalty, decline to take part, or withdraw from the research at any time during the interview, without providing an explanation. You may also refuse to answer any question. If you withdraw from the study, your data will be destroyed.

What does participation in the research involve: If you decide to participate, we will ask you a series of questions about your demographics, your drug use history, your physical and mental health, sexual behaviour, crime that you may have been involved with, and contact that you may have had with health services. We would like to audio record a short section of the interview. A second person on the research team will listen to this recording to establish how reliable our questionnaire is. You do not have to agree to the audio recording to participate in the study. If you are happy for us to do this recording, please indicate this on the consent form.

Location and duration: The interview will be carried out at a public location that is convenient to you, such as a local café or local health service. The interview will take about 1 hour.

Remuneration: You will be reimbursed up to \$40 to cover out-of-pocket expenses in participating in the research.

Risks: During the interview, we will ask you questions about the use of illegal drugs, your involvement in other illegal activities. Disclosure of this information to a third party may cause you harm. To reduce this risk, we do not ask questions about specific serious crimes that you may have committed and we also ask you do not reveal any specific details about crimes that you may have committed (i.e. names of people or places involved). The information you provide will be treated confidentially except as required by law (see **Confidentiality**). The survey will also include sensitive questions about your sexual behaviour, past trauma and mental health. If you

feel distressed or concerned about the questions being asked please let the interviewer know. We can provide you with a referral to a counselling or other health service. It is also okay to refuse to answer any question or to suspend the interview, or end the interview at any time, without penalty.

Benefits: From this research, we hope to learn more about methamphetamine use in the ACT, including how many people use this drug, harms they experience, and the types of health services that they might need. This information may be used to help improve services for people who use methamphetamine; however, we cannot guarantee that you will receive any benefits from participating in the research.

Implications of participation: Your participation in this study will not affect your relationship with ACT Health. Information about your participation in this study will not be shared with ACT Health, nor will your individual responses to the survey questions.

Exclusion criteria: People are not eligible to participate in this study if they are under 18 years of age, do not understand English, reside outside the ACT, or have been in drug treatment, prison or hospital in the past month.

Confidentiality: Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or except as required by law. We will use a study number to identify your questionnaires and data, and this will not be linked to your personal contact information. Only researchers from ANU who are working on this project will have access to these paper and electronic files.

Data storage: The data from this study will be stored in a locked file at ANU on de-identified interview forms, and electronic files will be kept in a secure directory within the ANU. Only researchers from ANU who are working on this project will have access to these paper and electronic files. Your data will be kept for at least 5 years from the time of any publications arising from the research and then disposed of by shredding paper files and erasure of computer files.

Queries and Concerns: If you would like more information or have any questions during the survey please feel free to ask the research interviewer. If you have any additional questions later, or concerns about the research, Associate Professor Rebecca McKetin (Ph. 02 602 58407; Rebecca.mcketin@anu.edu.au) will be happy to answer them.

If you feel distressed after participating in the research, please contact the ACT Mental Health Triage Service on 1800 629 354 (24 hour service) or (02) 6205 1065.

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au

ORAL CONSENT SCRIPT for Participants

Research into Methamphetamine Use in the ACT

You have read the Information Sheet about the research project. Was this information clear? Do you have any questions about the project?

Do you agree to participate in this project? YES NO

Do you agree for a section of this interview to be audio-recorded? YES NO

When I prepare the research outputs, I can use NO attribution and hold your information confidentially.

May we start the interview now?