

Explanatory Statement – Online Survey

Project ID: 44849

Project Title: **Stop! Harassment & bullying in the built environment professions**

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You are invited to take part in this survey. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email address listed above.

What is the purpose of this research?

There is substantial anecdotal evidence that sexual harassment and bullying are ongoing challenges within the built environment professions. This can seriously impact those who experience such behaviours and harm the reputations of practices, businesses, organisations and the sector as a whole.

The STOP! survey allows participants to anonymously contribute to the generation of a national dataset to understand the extent and challenges of sexual harassment and bullying in the built environment professions. The results will provide a sound evidence base to develop appropriate strategies for collective action.

The survey will be conducted across Australia and aims to:

- map the extent and nature of harassment and bullying in the built environment professions,
- understand how harassment and bullying shape participation in these professions,
- investigate any intersectional features.

The outcomes of this research will be used for:

- awareness building,
- the development of tools and strategies to combat harassment and bullying.

The data resulting from the survey will be thematically analysed and included in reports produced by Parlour, a non-profit incorporated association focussed on improving equity in the built environment. It will also inform future research into this topic and may be included in publications, public talks and workshops.

What does the research involve?

The survey is online, and open to those in the built environment professions. As a participant, you will be asked to provide insight and feedback on the topic through a series of questions.

The survey will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes depending on the level of information you wish to provide. The data collection process is completely anonymous. All information gathered will be used for research purposes only. The anonymised data may also be used in future research projects. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you can stop or withdraw at any time before submission.

Sources of funding

The research is supported by the not-for-profit association Parlour. Parlour is financially supported through Parlour Partners and the Parlour Collective. This support does not give the partners access to the data nor input into the research report.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

By consenting to participate in the survey as a research participant, you are consenting to allow us to use the information obtained as data for this research project. Once you have submitted the data, withdrawal from the study is not possible. This is because the data-gathering process is anonymous.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

By participating in this study, you will be anonymously contributing your thoughts and experiences of sexual harassment and bullying. This is an opportunity to reflect on the topic and how it affects your perceptions of being part of the built environment professions. This means that you will contribute your knowledge and experience to improve the future of the built environment professions.

In the survey, you will be asked about incidents and experiences of sexual harassment, bullying and other forms of harassment. You can provide as much detail as you are comfortable with. You may find some questions triggering or confronting – you do not need to answer all questions. But we ask that you prepare yourself for the kinds of questions that may be asked. Ensure that you are well supported before beginning. You will be able to pause your response and return to it when you feel able (just keep the tab open). If you are distressed, please contact one of the following support services:

- **1800RESPECT:** 24/7 confidential counselling and support, 1800 737 732
- **National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service:** 1800 200 526
- **Beyond Blue:** 24/7 confidential counselling, 1300 22 4636
- **13YARN:** 24/7 culturally safe crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 13 92 76
- **Mates in Construction:** support for everyone involved in the construction industry, 1300 642 111
- **Mensline:** 24/7 confidential counselling and support for men, 1300 78 99 78
- **Lifeline:** 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention, 13 11 14

Please note that this survey is not a reporting tool.

If you decide to no longer participate in this study, you can leave the survey at any time prior to submitting and no data will be collected.

There are no other perceived risks involved with any other aspect of this project.

Confidentiality

Your participation is confidential and anonymous. The survey does not ask you for your name or any identifying information. This means that you are unidentifiable, including by any third party (such as Survey Monkey through which we are running the survey. SurveyMonkey also has ISO 27001 information security certification). Any individual incident detailed in research reports and other subsequent presentations will be checked for any possible identifying information and may be paraphrased to further ensure absolute anonymity.

Results

Results of this research will be included in reports published by Parlour and publicly available on the Parlour website. Some results may be made available through other published written work, public forums and discussions and future workshops related to this research.

Storage of data

Research data will be retained in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007) and Monash University's Research Data Management Policy. The database that will be collecting the information from the survey will be hosted on dedicated secure servers and will be password protected.

Digital data from the survey will be stored on Google Drive and backed up on the Monash University share drive (S Drive), which is secure, centrally managed, reliable, and backed up.

The project will comply with the University's Privacy Policy to ensure that all reasonable standards are adhered to ensure that information is protected from misuse, loss and unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. The research data (i.e. the raw information collected) will be kept securely at Monash for five years after collection, before being destroyed, whereas the final report will remain archived in hard copy.

In accordance with data-sharing guidelines, fully de-identified data may be made available for use in future by other researchers, subject to appropriate ethics approval.

Ethical Guidelines

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC).

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
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Thank you,



Dr Gill Matthewson