Participant Information Sheet

Health/Social Science Research - Adult providing implied consent

Bendigo Health

Title	Ensuring Medical Termination of Pregnancy Accessibility and Equity In Rural Victoria
Short Title	MTOP Accessibility in Rural Victoria
Protocol Number	112869
Principal Investigator	Dr Catherine Keniry, Charles Sturt University
Associate Investigator(s)	Kayla Chrisp (medical student, CSU), Hollie Timmins, SHDH
Location	Swan Hill

What does my participation involve?

1. Introduction
You are invited to consider your participation in a research project, titled:
Ensuring Medical Termination of Pregnancy Accessibility and Equity In Rural Victoria.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked complete a short survey to assess your eligibility to take part.

You can download a copy of this Participant Information Sheet to keep.

2. What is the purpose of this research?
The aim of this project is to discover some of the barriers and enablers of access to medical terminations of pregnancy (MTOPs) in rural Victoria. This is significant as it may help us to improve access to MTOPs in rural Victoria in the future.
Since a new program has been implemented at Swan Hill District Health – Community Health (SHDH-CH), we would like to know whether the service is effectively allowing the provision of care, or if there are improvements that should be made.
We hope this research will allow the program at SHDH-CH to be improved to increase MTOP access in Swan Hill and surrounding towns.
The results of this research will be used by the researcher Kayla Chrisp to obtain a Doctor of Medicine degree. It is not being sponsored by any company.

3. What does participation in this research involve?
This research involves a brief conversation via phone call, text, or email, to determine your eligibility, followed by a 30-40 minute interview conducted via phone call, in which you will be asked questions regarding your experiences having an MTOP at Swan Hill District Health – Community Health, or regarding why you were unable to access an MTOP at SHDH-CH since January 2024. This interview will be recorded and transcribed using the record and transcribe feature built into the iPhone phone app. If you would like to review the transcription of your interview, it will be sent to you via email. You will then have 2 weeks to review your transcripts and make any changes you wish. If you make changes, you will then be asked to email the altered transcript back to the research team for analysis.

The initial, short conversation will determine if you:

- Are over the age of 18
- Have either had an MTOP at SHDH-CH since January 2024 OR been unable to access an MTOP at SHDH-CH since January 2024
- Are willing to participate in an interview over the phone regarding your experiences

If you meet the requirements, then you will be able to participate in the research project. If you cannot be in the research project, feel free to contact the research team to discuss other options.

Bias
This research project has been designed to make sure the researchers interpret the results in a fair and appropriate way and avoids study doctors or participants jumping to conclusions.

Additional costs and reimbursement
There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

4. Do I have to take part in this research project?
Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.
If you do decide to take part, please proceed by completing the expression of interest form on the same page you accessed this document from.
Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your routine care, your relationship with professional staff or your relationship with Swan Hill District Health or Charles Sturt University.

5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?
We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any direct benefits from this research; however, possible benefits may include changes to the current MTOP model of care at Swan Hill District Health Community Health, to aim to improve the provision of MTOPs.

6. What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?
You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, the research team can provide you with information regarding free services that you may contact for support. These services will be provided by staff who are not members of the research team.

7. What if I withdraw from this research project?
If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify Kayla Chrisp of your choice to withdraw.

8. What happens when the research project ends?
At the end of the project, data will be formed into a final report, which will be submitted to Charles Sturt University (CSU). After the research has been assessed by CSU, it will be submitted to a medical journal for peer-reviewed publication.
Upon submission of the research to CSU, all data associated with you will be retained for 7 years before being deleted from the private servers. If published, the report will be made available on the Charles Sturt University School of Rural Medicine Website: https://science-health.csu.edu.au/schools/medicine/research/student-research

How is the research project being conducted?

9. What will happen to information about me?
Collected data will be de-identified. It will be stored on a secure CSU server, accessible only by Kayla Chrisp, Hollie Timmins, and Catherine Keniry. It will be stored for the required 7 years after the completion of the study, after which point it will be destroyed. Your consent for this research extends to only this study. Your data will not be used for any other research.
By signing the consent form you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. Your first name and phone number will be the only identifiers, and these will only be recorded in your initial survey. After the phone call, text, or email to organise an interview time, you will be identified by your participant identification number. Your participant identification number will be attached to the recording of your interview and associated data, but will not be published in any reports. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.
The personal information that the research team collect and use is the information you provide in the interview, including your first name, some demographic information, and your phone number.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission. Data will be presented in themes, rather than specific information that you have provided.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian 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. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored. It will be disclosed only with your permission, or as required by law.

10. Complaints and compensation

If you have any complaints regarding this research, they will be handled by the supervisor of this project at CSU, Dr Catherine Keniry. Dr Keniry can be contacted via email at ckeniry@csu.edu.au.

If you suffer any distress or psychological injury as a result of this research project, you should contact the research team as soon as possible. You will be assisted with arranging appropriate support.

11. Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being conducted by Kayla Chrisp. It is not expected that Charles Sturt University or Swan Hill District Health will benefit financially from this research. There is no funding for this research provided by either organisation. You will not benefit financially from your involvement in this research project. No member of the research team will receive financial benefit from your involvement in this research.

12. Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the HREC of Bendigo Health.

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13. Further information and who to contact

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact any of the following people:

- Kayla Chrisp (Associate Investigator) – 0481 590 864
- Hollie Timmins (Associate Investigator) - 03 5033 9337
- Dr Catherine Keniry (Principal Investigator/Academic supervisor) – 02 6365 7052

Research contact person

Name	Kayla Chrisp
Position	Charles Sturt University Doctor of Medicine Student
Telephone	0481 590 864
Email	k.chrisp.MTOP.research@gmail.com

For matters relating to research at the site at which you are participating, the details of the local site complaints person are:

Complaints contact person

Position	Patient Relations Officer
Telephone	03 5454 9079
Email	feedback@bendigohealth.org.au
Online form	https://bendigohealth.org.au/feedback/

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact:

Local HREC Office contact

Name	Research Governance Office
Position	Research Governance Manager
Telephone	5454 6412
Email	researchoffice@bendigohealth.org.au