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Project Supervisor: Dr Alexander Broom
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Information Statement for the Research Project: Men's Experience of Stillbirth

You are invited to participate in the research project identified above which is being conducted by Shari Bonnette an Honours student researcher from the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. The research is part of an Honours study at the University of Newcastle, supervised by Dr Alexander Broom from the School of Humanities and Social Science.

Why is the research being done?

- The project aim is to gain an understanding of men's experience of stillbirth. The project seeks to evaluate your experience with your child, the grief you experienced and the support you had around you after the stillbirth.
- There is limited research in Australia or internationally that provide men's perspectives of stillbirth so your experience and opinions matter.

Who can participate in the research?

- Men aged over 18, whose female partner has experienced stillbirth between six months and 3 years ago

What choice do you have?

- Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Only those people who give their informed consent will be included in the project. Whether or not you decide to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you.
- If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason and have the option of withdrawing any data which identifies you.

What would you be asked to do?

- If you agree to participate in the research project you will be asked to attend a face-to-face interview of approximately 1 hour duration.
- The interview is very much conversational. The student researcher will ask you a minimal amount of questions as required, relating to the research topic.
- The interview will be conducted at a time and place that is mutually convenient.
- The interview will be audio recorded.

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- Participation is entirely voluntary.
- There are no payments for participants but your contribution is important.
- You will be required to sign a consent form but you are free to withdraw consent at any time, without any penalties. You do not have to provide a reason for withdrawing from the project.

What are the benefits and risks of your participation?

- This is an opportunity for you to contribute your thoughts, opinions and experience about stillbirth.
- It is understood that you will be talking about your stillborn child and this may cause you discomfort. If you require assistance following the interview the local Hunter Valley contact for stillbirth support is SIDS and Kids and they can be contacted on 4969 3171. This telephone and outreach service is available 24 hours a day.

How is your information kept private and confidential?

- Your consent form and the de-identified data collected will be stored securely for a minimum of five years in a locked cabinet in the Supervisor's office at the University of Newcastle.
- Your identity will not be revealed, a pseudonym will be used in any written material so that you cannot be identified.

How will the information collected be used?

- The data collected from the interview will be de-identified and presented in the student researcher's Honours thesis which will be submitted to the University of Newcastle.
- Individual participants will not be identified in any reports arising from the project.
- You will be able to review the audio recording and transcripts to edit or erase your contribution.
- There may be an option for results to be published in an academic journal. This would be quite significant in presenting men's experience of stillbirth to a national and international audience. Publication does not attract any financial gain for the student researcher, the supervisor or University of Newcastle.

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What do you need to do to participate?

- Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have any questions, contact the student researcher or research project supervisor via email or telephone.
- Please contact the student researcher or research project supervisor via email or via telephone to arrange a time and place for interview.
- You will be required to sign an Informed Consent form before commencement of an interview.

Further Information

- If you would like further information please contact:

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Thank you for considering this invitation

Signature (Student Researcher)

Signature (Research Project Supervisor)

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2008-0264.

Should you have any concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research Office, The Chancellery, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan, NSW, 2308, telephone (02) 4921 6333 or email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au