Participant Information Sheet

# Date Information Sheet Produced:

14th May 2024

# Project Title

Exploring Sexuality Diverse Young Adults’ Experiences of Connection with and Cultivation of Community

*AUTEC Reference number: 24/83*

**Ko wai au? Who am I?**

Kia ora, I’m Abbey Busch (she/her). My ancestors are from England, Germany, France and Italy. I am 25 and was born and raised in Tāmaki Mākaurau, Auckland, the rohe of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. I am currently completing my Bachelor of Health Science (honours) in Psychology. This research will contribute to my completion of this degree.

I have worked within the youth development sector for over three years and care deeply about the wellbeing of young people and young adults - as a young adult myself. I also identify as queer (attracted to people of any gender). I find hearing and amplifying queer voices and stories incredibly important and meaningful; and I am passionate about improving systems of care for rainbow people and communities.

Thank you so much for expressing interest in participating in this research.

# What is the purpose of this research?

This research will explore sexuality diverse young adults’ experiences of connecting with and cultivating community, and how these experiences may affect their wellbeing. The term ‘sexuality diverse’ refers to being attracted to people of the same gender as your gender; people of multiple genders, any gender, or irrespective of gender; or experiencing limited or no sexual or romantic attraction. This term is used to capture diverse queer and rainbow sexual identities. Sexuality diverse identities include, but are not limited to gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, demisexual, asexual, aromantic, (sexuality) queer, and takatāpui identities.

I am interested to explore experiences of connecting with and cultivating community. ‘Community’ in this study refers to any group of people with a shared interest, purpose, social tie, and/or characteristics, and it can include your experience of both rainbow/queer communities, and/or communities that are not rainbow/queer focused or specific.

From such research, pathways for community cultivation and barriers to accessing community may be highlighted. This research also intends to celebrate the strengths and resilience of sexuality diverse young adults. This research will contribute to my completion of the Bachelor of Health Science (honours) in Psychology at AUT; and the findings of this research may be used for academic publications and presentations.

# How was I identified and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

This study was advertised at AUT campuses, through AUT’s Out@AUT student club, and through online rainbow community pages and forums. Potential participants expressed their interest to me by contacting me via email. To ensure this research explores experiences of community connection and cultivation among a diverse group of sexuality diverse people, potential participants’ ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and gender identities were taken into consideration. Participants must identify as sexuality diverse, aged 21 to 29 years old, live in Tāmaki Mākaurau, Auckland currently, and be able to participate in an exploratory interview in English.

Please note that friends and students of the research supervisors, Elizabeth Du Preez and Paula Collens, are not able to participate in this research due to this being a conflict of interest.

# How do I agree to participate in this research?

Should you wish to participate in this research, you must return a signed consent form. This form will be sent to you via email by me. Once you have returned a signed consent form, I will take this as your acceptance of this invitation to participate.

Your participation in this research is voluntary (it is your choice) and whether or not you choose to participate will neither advantage nor disadvantage you. You are able to withdraw from the study up until your data begins being analysed. If you choose to withdraw from the study, then you will be offered the choice between having any data that is identifiable as belonging to you removed or allowing it to continue to be used. However, data analysis begins, removal of your data may not be possible.

# What will happen in this research?

Participants will engage in an interview with me. Interviews may take 30 minutes – 1 hour and 30 minutes. Interviews can be held online (on zoom), or in person at AUT’s North, City, or South campuses (participants can choose what campus is convenient for them). At the beginning of interviews, there will be time for myself and the participant to get to know one another a bit. I will also repeat key information about the project and the participants’ rights, and the participant can ask any questions they may have. Interviews will involve a predetermined set of questions, as well as ad-hoc, follow-up questions. The content of the interview will focus on the participants’ experiences of connecting with and cultivating community, and how these experiences may have affected their wellbeing.

The interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed (written out verbatim) by me, with participants’ consent. Participants will be given pseudonyms and any identifiable information about them or anyone they may talk about during their interview will be removed. Transcripts will be sent to participants and participants will have up to 7 days to respond with any changes they may wish to make to their transcript. If after 7 days there is no response, the transcript will be used as is.

I will then analyse the transcripts. This will involve exploring similarities and differences in participants’ experiences and summarising key themes that have arisen across participants’ transcripts. Once I have analysed the transcripts, I will write up a results section which captures the findings and includes de-identified quotes from participants’ transcripts. The findings will also be woven into a discussion section of my dissertation that explores the findings in relation to existing literature.

Once the research project is complete and has received a final grade, I will provide a 2-page summary of the research to participants who indicate on the consent form that they wish to receive this summary. The research may be used for academic presentations and publications in the future.

# What are the discomforts and risks?

It is hoped participants have a positive experience during their interviews. However, conversation about any personal experience can bring up challenging feelings and emotions.

# How will these discomforts and risks be alleviated?

AUT Student Counselling and Mental Health is able to offer three free sessions of confidential counselling support for adult participants in an AUT research project. These sessions are only available for issues that have arisen directly as a result of participation in the research and are not for other general counselling needs. To access these services, you will need to:

* drop into our centre at WB203 City Campus, email counselling@aut.ac.nz or call 921 9292.
* let the receptionist know that you are a research participant, and provide the title of my research and my name and contact details as given in this Information Sheet.

You can find out more information about AUT counsellors and counselling on <https://www.aut.ac.nz/student-life/student-support/counselling-and-mental-health>

Additionally, or alternatively, participants may choose to access these free or low-cost support services to navigate anything that may have arisen for them during their involvement in the research:

[OutLine](https://outline.org.nz)

*Free call on 0800 OUTLINE (688 54363) from 6pm-9pm. Other services are detailed on OutLine’s website: https://outline.org.nz*

[Youthline](https://www.youthline.co.nz)

*24/7 free call on 0800 376 633, free text on 234. Other services are detailed on Youthline’s website: https://www.youthline.co.nz*

[1737](https://1737.org.nz)

*24/7 free call or text on 1737.*

For a list of helplines visit: <https://mentalhealth.org.nz/helplines>

For information on local support services visit family services directory at: <https://www.familyservices.govt.nz/directory/>

# What are the benefits?

It is hoped participants enjoy the research process. Participants will be provided koha to acknowledge their time and contributions. This research also hopes to positively contribute to existing literature regarding protective and resilience factors for sexuality diverse people and communities should this research go to publication. This research will also benefit me by contributing to my completion of a Bachelor of Health Science (honours) in Psychology.

# How will my privacy be protected?

Participants’ interview transcripts and audio recordings, and consent forms, will be stored securely on AUT’s OneDrive in a folder that is only accessible to myself and my supervisors (Elizabeth Du Preez, and Paula Collens). Participants will be given pseudonyms and any information that could be used to identify them or anyone they may discuss within their interview will be removed from their transcripts. Therefore, any quotes that are used in the findings of the research will not contain any identifiable information. All research data (e.g., transcripts, audio recordings) will be destroyed six years after the research has concluded as per AUT’s data management guidelines. Should a participant wish to withdraw from the research and wish that their data is not used in the research, all their personal information and data will be destroyed immediately upon their withdrawal.

# What are the costs of participating in this research?

Participation in this research will cost participants 30 minutes – 1 hour 30 minutes of their time, depending on interview length. If participants are travelling to an in-person interview location, travel costs (e.g., petrol or public transport fares and travel time) will be involved.

# What opportunity do I have to consider this invitation?

Participants have three weeks (21 days) from the date they receive this information sheet to consider this invitation to participate. If I haven’t heard back from a participant after 1 week, I will send a follow-up email. They will then have 2 weeks to consider from the date the follow-up email is sent.

# Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

Once the research is complete and has received a final examination grade, I will email a 2-page summary of the findings to participants who have indicated they wish to receive this material on their consent form.

# What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Project Primary Supervisor, Elizabeth Du Preez, elizabeth.dupreez@aut.ac.nz , (+09) 921 9999 ext 7692.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary of AUTEC, *ethics@aut.ac.nz* , (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.

# Whom do I contact for further information about this research?

Please keep this Information Sheet and a copy of the Consent Form for your future reference. You are also able to contact the research team as follows:

Researcher Contact Details:

Abbey Busch, gsg1108@autuni.ac.nz

Project Supervisor Contact Details:

Primary Supervisor, Elizabeth Du Preez, elizabeth.dupreez@aut.ac.nz, 09 921 9999 ext 7692.

Secondary Supervisor, Paula Collens, paula.collens@aut.ac.nz, 09 921 9999 ext 5780.

**Approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee on 21 May 2024, AUTEC Reference number 24/83.**