EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Men’s Lived Experience Survey

Project ID: 22759
Project title: Plus Paternal: A focus on fathers

Project team members

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You are invited to take part in this survey. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether you would like to complete the survey. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the project team via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the study involve?
The project, Plus Paternal: A focus on fathers aims to improve the health of men and their children. The Project will examine men’s experiences and health needs on their journeys to fatherhood – from preconception to early parenting.

It will determine how best to support men at various stages, how to reduce the barriers to men engaging with reproductive health services and the key systems reforms necessary to create a health system that is more supportive of the needs and roles of fathers.

It is important that this work is informed by the experiences and views of men and this survey provides an opportunity for you to have your say.
We are asking men who have fathered or tried to father a child in the last five years to complete an anonymous online survey. In the survey you will be asked about your experiences at difference points in time, your interactions with health professionals and services and your ideas for how the system could be improved to better meet the needs of men. The results will help us to identify opportunities for improving how the health system engages with and supports fathers and potential fathers.

We expect the survey will take around 15 minutes of your time.

**Why focus on men who have tried to father a child in the past five years?**
Men with recent experiences of the health system will be best placed to comment on challenges and opportunities for creating a health system that is more supportive of the needs and roles of fathers.

**Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**
You don’t need to complete any formal consent processes for this research. By clicking on the survey link, we will assume your consent to participate. Note that the survey is anonymous and you can choose to skip any questions that you would prefer not to answer. Given the survey is anonymous, it will not be possible to withdraw your answers after they have been submitted.

**Possible benefits and risks to participants**
Through participating in this survey, you will help to inform Healthy Male’s future work to improve the engagement and support of men as fathers and potential future fathers in the health system. Your participation will enable us to hear from the real life experiences of men and to ensure that the solutions that are developed are relevant to the needs and reflect the ideas of men in our communities.

Sometimes the pathway to fatherhood can be a challenging and distressing one. In completing the survey, if you reflect on experiences that are upsetting for you, you may wish to access support. Please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Mensline Australia on 1800 903 919 for confidential telephone support available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Confidentiality**
The survey responses are all anonymous and it will not be possible for you to be identified in any way. The publication and presentation of findings arising from this research will be in a summarised format, with any direct quotes deidentified.

**Storage of data**
The data collected through the online survey tool will be stored in QualTrics (the online tool software provider) and by the Healthy Male project team once exported. Healthy Male will store the data in electronic form in Microsoft OneDrive. The project files are password protected with multi-factor authentication and will only be accessible to members of the project team (note that this includes the two independent consultants). All data will be retained for a period of seven years after the survey is completed so that we can refer back to the data if there are any questions arising from publications we have created from this work. After that time, all files will be permanently destroyed.
Results
The results from this survey will be analysed and presented as part of the consultation processes for the +Paternal Health project. The results will also be published on the Healthy Male website and may also be presented at conferences and prepared as a manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal in the men’s health and/or reproductive health fields.

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 Committee (MUHREC):

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Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
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With thanks

Robert McLachlan
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