**Kinfolk**

**Participant information sheet and consent form**

**for family members participating in interviews**

This project involves working with older Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) Elders (65years+) and service providers to improve the choice and control that older TGD people over their gender identity and expression. In particular we aim to address the restriction of gender expression by family members in ways that preserve family relationships. To do this we will

1. Work with TGD Elders to document their issues and concerns using a survey, interviews, gender genograms and a workshop
2. Interview family members of TGD Elders to document their concerns and strategies
3. Work with relationships organisations to develop a resource for TGD Elders and their families
4. Work with aged care service providers to explore their role in advocating for TGD Elders.

The project is an initiative of Alice’s Garage and has been funded by the Department of Health. The project team includes: Dr Catherine Barrett, Kaye Bradshaw, Toni Paynter, Sally Conning and Kathy Mansfield.

This information sheet and consent form is for family members of TGD Elders interested in participating in an interview. It explains what an interview will involve, what we will invite you to do, the risks involved and the benefits. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the project coordinator Dr Catherine Barrett on:

* Phone: 0429 582 237
* Email: [director@celebrateageing.com](mailto:director@celebrateageing.com)

**Why are interviews being conducted?**

In interviews conducted with TGD Elders for the project a recurrent theme has been the importance of talking to families – and learning from the challenges families experience and learning from family members about what we need to do to better support families. Interviews with family members are expected to help us produce a more effective resource that supports TGD Elders and their families.

**What you are invited to do**

If you agree to participate in an interview you will be invited to undertake the following steps. Please let us know if you do not understand any of these steps or are concerned about them. You will be invited to:

1. Contact Dr Catherine Barrett to make a time for an interview – this can be done in person (in some parts of Victoria) or over the phone
2. Sign the attached consent form and return it to Catherine
3. Make a time for your interview
4. Prior to your meeting with Catherine, you are invited to identify strategies and supports to assist you. If the interview process raises any emotional difficulties for you. We will ask you if there is a person you can debrief with and we can also provide you with numbers for support services you can access (see following page)
5. Respond to some demographic questions about: the state or territory you live in; your gender identity; age and geographic location (eg: rural/metro)
6. Respond to the following interview questions in relation to your experience of having a family member transition:
   1. What were the challenges you or your family experienced?
   2. What were the strategies that you or your family utilised that were helpful?
   3. Is there any information you would like us to include in the information we develop for TGD Elders and their families and service providers on respecting TGD Elder’s gender expression?
   4. Are there any other comments you would like to make?
7. Let us know at any point if you want to withdraw or stop the interview process
8. Review a draft, summary transcript Catherine has written from your interview – and make any changes, including deidentifying you and your family
9. The draft, summary transcript will then be uploaded to the Kinfolk web page on the Alice’s Garage website and may be shared with media outlets that are covering the project (to raise awareness of the need for change)

**Right to withdraw consent**

You have the right to withdraw your consent up until the summary from your interview is posted on the website. To withdraw your participation, please email or call Catherine.

**Potential benefits**

The documentation of your experiences and insights is expected to assist in educating community, family members and service providers about the importance of respecting TGD Elder’s gender identity.

**Potential risks**

Talking about family relationships and Transition may be distressing. Please read this information carefully and, if you believe participation will create distress for you, then we encourage you not to participate. If you decide to participate you are asked to let the project coordinator Dr Catherine Barrett, know at any point if you want to withdraw your participation.

**Confidentiality**

Dr Catherine Barrett will work with you to document your experiences and expertise. The document produced will not identify your name, nor will it identify the names of your family members. The draft story will be given to you for approval before being published on the project website.

**Support services**

There are a number of services available to support you if this project raises any difficulties for you:

* QLife is Australia’s first nationally-oriented counselling and referral service for LGBTIQ people. QLife are available from 5:30pm – 10:30pm and can be contacted on 1800 184 527 or web: <https://qlife.org.au/>
* beyondblue provides a free phone service 24 hours a day on 1300 22 4636 or web: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>
* Lifeline is a free phone service available 24 hours a day on 13 11 14 or web: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

**More information**

If you would like more information, please contact the project coordinator Dr Catherine Barrett on:

* Phone: 0429 582 237 or Email: [director@celebrateageing.com](mailto:director@celebrateageing.com)
* Web: alicesgarage.net/kinfolk

## **Kinfolk Consent form – family members**

If you decide to participate in the Project, please sign the consent form below. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Dr Catherine Barrett, Project Coordinator on 0429 582 237.

I agree to participate in an interview for the Kinfolk Project conducted by or on behalf of Alice’s Garage for the purpose of educating community and service providers and building respectful family relationships.

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If you agree to provide your consent on the basis of the above conditions, please sign the consent.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT**

I have read and understood this Consent Form and give my consent for the summary of my interview to be used for the Kinfolk project.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this signed consent form to Dr Catherine Barrett by email:** [**director@celebrateageing.com**](mailto:director@celebrateageing.com) **or post: PO Box 1377 St Kilda VIC 3182 or in person**