



## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

### **1. What is the research study about?**

You are invited to take part in this online research study about your experience at residential college.

The research study is aiming to collect information that can be used to identify the strengths of the residential college experience, areas that could be improved and students' experiences with the broader University community

### **2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by The Social Research Centre, on behalf of the six residential colleges affiliated with the University of Sydney.

### **3. Do I have to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this research survey is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to.

### **4. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?**

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire, which will ask you questions about: your personal characteristics (i.e.: sex, age, gender), the positives and negatives about college life, your experiences (if any) of bullying and intimidation and other behaviours.

The survey will also ask questions about any experiences of sexual assault and/or sexual harassment that you may have had while at your college. Reading and answering these questions may trigger difficult memories for you. If you decide to complete this survey but find either during the survey or after completing it that the memories are causing you distress, counsellors are available through:

- University of Sydney Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Contact: 8627 8433 or 8627 8437
- The Safer Communities Office (SCO) of the University of Sydney. Contact: 8627 6808 or [safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au](mailto:safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au)
- USYD After hours mental wellbeing support line. Contact: 1300 474 065 or text via 0488884429
- 1800Respect: 24/7 National sexual assault and domestic and family violence counselling service. Contact: 1800737732 or [www.rape-dvservices.org.au](http://www.rape-dvservices.org.au)
- NSW Rape Crisis Service: 1800424017 or [www.rape-dvservices.org.au](http://www.rape-dvservices.org.au)
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
- Newtown Police: 9550 8199
- NSW Police Community Portal for reporting sexual assault: 131 444 or [https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/sex\\_crimes/adult\\_sexual\\_assault](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/sex_crimes/adult_sexual_assault)

You can also access supports within your College in the normal way.

We expect this survey to take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete depending on your answers to some questions.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research study.

## 5. What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope to use information we get from this research study to benefit all students at your college and other colleges, by identifying opportunities for improving some aspects of the College culture.

## 6. What will happen to information about me?

This survey is completely confidential. All information you provide will be de-identified and combined with the responses of other college students. The survey results will form part of a report.

By completing and submitting this survey, you consent to the research team collecting and using information you provide for the research study. The Social Research Centre will store your survey response in a secure electronic format. Information will only be used for the purposes of producing reports on the results of the survey and the data security procedures adopted by the Social Research Centre comply with the Australian Privacy Principles, the Market and Social Research Privacy Principles (ISO 20252), and the Code of Professional Behaviour of The Research Society.

## 7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

Your College will be provided with a confidential report of the survey results. The information provided to the College will be done in a way that will not identify you.

## 8. What if I don't want to participate in this research study?

All students of the College will be invited to participate in the survey by email. All students will be sent two reminder emails while the survey is open.

If you do not wish to participate, you may simply ignore these emails.

## 9. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

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 the following member of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details:

Name	Nikki Honey
Position	Executive Director, Quantitative Research, The Social Research Centre
Email	nikki.honey@srcentre.com.au

## 10. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (Reference Number 2021/667). As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)