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| **PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM** | Deakin University logo |

TO: Disabled Disability Service Practitioners

**Plain Language Statement**

Date:

Full Project Title: Inclusive Employment: Disabled Disability Service Practitioners in Higher Education

**Principal Researcher: Professor Angela Dew**

**Associate Researcher: Dr Emily Gaspar**

**Reference number:** 2024/HE000425

**Introduction**

This research is part of a post-doctoral Fulbright Scholarship for Dr Emily Gaspar from Coastal Carolina University in the United States (US). Dr Gaspar is being hosted at Deakin University by Professor Angela Dew, Disability and Inclusion. This research extends to Australia, Dr Gaspar’s PhD research in the US.

As a disabled disability service practitioner employed at an Australian university, you are invited to take part in this research project. You are receiving this information via email from the manager at your university, who has agreed to distribute this information to all disability service practitioner staff on our behalf. You are eligible to participate in the research if you identify as having lived experience of disability.

**Purpose**

The aim of this research is to explore the employment experiences of disability services practitioners (DSP), who identify as disabled, and work at institutions of higher education in Australia. This research project will focus on the experiences of disabled DSP whose personal disability identity, coupled with professional expertise regarding disability in higher education, make them lived-experience experts. The research is being conducted at Deakin University and other Australian universities. The research questions are:

1. How do Australian disabled disability service practitioners in post-secondary education describe their experiences on campus?

2. How do Australian disabled disability services practitioners in post-secondary education describe their intersectional identities?

3. What are the differences and similarities between disability practitioners who identify as disabled and work in tertiary or post-secondary education in Australia and the United States?

**Procedures**

During this research study, you will be asked to participate in an in-person or online (your choice), audio-recorded semi-structured interview with Dr Gaspar, and subsequently review the analysis of your individual interview for accuracy. The interview will take approximately 120 minutes. You can choose to be interviewed in one session, or to spread the interview across two 60-minute sessions. The interviews will be conducted in February or March of 2025.

**Rights**

You do not have to agree to participate in this research study. If you do choose to participate, you may choose not to at any time up until joint data analysis. Once joint data analysis has commenced (April 2025) it will not be possible to extract and redact individual data. There is no penalty for not participating or withdrawing from the study.

**Risks**

During this research study, it is possible that you may experience discomfort by discussing your lived experience as a disabled disability service practitioner. As the questions are about your work and your personal experiences at work, we do not anticipate that you will be personally, emotionally or psychologically adversely affected by them.

**Benefits**

By agreeing to participate in this research study, it is not expected that you will benefit directly. This research, however, may help higher education professionals consider how identity impacts lived experiences.

**Confidentiality**

Whether you do or do not participate in this research will not be disclosed and is fully confidential. Your manager will not know who or if anyone has agreed to participate. Your privacy and confidentiality in participating in this research study will be protected at all times. You will not be named or otherwise identified on any materials related to the research. Only Dr Gaspar and Professor Dew will know participants’ identity. Pseudonyms will be attributed to participants for reporting purposes.

Confidentiality will only be violated when required by law. This usually includes, but may not be limited to, situations when your responses indicate that you, or another clearly identified individual, is at risk of imminent harm or situations in which researchers are mandated reporters, such as instances of child abuse.

**Sharing the Results**

The results of the research will be shared via a full project written summary sent to you by Dr Gaspar at the conclusion of the research. The de-identified results will also be presented at a Deakin University forum to which you will be invited, at relevant conferences, and in peer-reviewed publications. No identifying information will be shared in any of these formats.

**Data Storage and Management**

All research data will be held digitally and stored on Syncplicity, a Deakin University preferred data storage system. Data will only able to be accessed by Professor Dew and Dr Gaspar. Data will be stored for up to five years after publication and then destroyed.

To obtain more information about this research project please contact:

Dr Emily Gaspar on [e.gaspar@deakin.edu.au](mailto:e.gaspar@deakin.edu.au)

OR

Professor Angela Dew on [angela.dew@deakin.edu.au](mailto:angela.dew@deakin.edu.au) or telephone: 03 92445766.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, [research-ethics@deakin.edu.au](mailto:research-ethics@deakin.edu.au)

Please quote project number [2024/HE000425]***.***

**PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM** 

**TO: Disabled Disability Service Practitioners**

**Consent Form**

**Date:**

Full Project Title: Inclusive Employment: Disabled Disability Service Practitioners in Higher Education

**Reference Number:** 2024/HE000425

I have read, and I understand the attached Plain Language Statement*.*

I freely agree to participate in this project according to the conditions in the Plain Language Statement.

I have been given a copy of the Plain Language Statement and Consent Form to keep.

The researcher has agreed not to reveal my identity and personal details, including where information about this project is published, or presented in any public form.

I understand the interview will be audio-recorded.

I understand I will be provided with a copy of the analysis of my interview for review.

Participant’s Name (printed) ……………………………………………………………………

Signature ……………………………………………………… Date …………………………

Email address or telephone number: …………………………………………………………

**PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM** 

**TO: Disabled Disability Service Practitioners**

**Withdrawal of Consent Form**

*(To be used for participants who wish to withdraw from the project prior to joint data analysis)*

**Date:**

**Full Project Title:**

**Reference Number:**

I hereby wish to WITHDRAW my consent to participate in the above research project and understand that there will be no repussions if I withdraw, my withdrawal will only be known by the researchers and WILL NOT jeopardise my standing or relationship with Deakin University.

Participant’s Name (printed) …………………………………………………….

Signature ………………………………………………………………. Date ……………………

**Please email this form to:**

Dr Emily Gaspar on [e.gaspar@deakin.edu.au](mailto:e.gaspar@deakin.edu.au)