

# Research Panel

## (In)fertility in Australia

*University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Project: 2057025.1*



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### Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining our (In)fertility Research Panel. This document will provide you with further information about the Panel, so you can decide whether you would like to join. Please read this information carefully. If you have any questions about the research panel or your eligibility to join, please contact the research team.

Joining the Panel is optional, and if you don't wish to join, you don't have to. If you join and then change your mind in the future, you can request to be removed from the Panel at any time, without having to give a reason.

We want as many people as possible to join the Panel. If you have any friends, family or colleagues who may be interested in the panel, please invite them to join too.

### What is this research about?

People have a right to have a say in decisions about research that may affect them. This includes how research is designed and undertaken and how research findings are disseminated and implemented once a study is complete. This means that research about the experience of infertility, treatments such as IUI, IVF, and egg-freezing, should be designed and carried out with involvement from people who have experienced these conditions or interventions.

We have established an (In)fertility Research Panel (the Panel). This Panel consists of people with experience of infertility or fertility treatments, who are available to contribute to research projects. This includes having input into the design or development of a research project, or being involved in a research project as a participant.

Involvement in these projects may take many forms, and some examples are provided below:

- Giving feedback on a draft questionnaire or research protocol
- Participating in group discussions about the best way to answer a research question
- Participating in interviews about your experiences of infertility or fertility treatments
- Completing surveys or questionnaires

We don't know what all the projects look like because they haven't been planned or thought of yet.

### What will I be asked to do?

If you are interested in joining the Panel, you will be first asked to provide some basic information about yourself (e.g. age, postcode), some information about your medical history related to infertility and/or fertility treatments, and your email address so we can contact you about research projects in the future.

Once you have joined, you may be contacted periodically by email for opportunities to help with research projects, or to participate in research. These projects will each have their own ethics approvals in place. You will then have an opportunity to read more about the specific project, ask questions, and then decide whether to take part. There is no obligation to take part in any specific project. You will be contacted by email with research opportunities a maximum of one time per month.

### **Who can participate?**

We are looking for a broad range of people to join the Panel. To be eligible you will have experienced infertility and/or fertility treatment and live in Australia. Fertility treatment includes IUI, IVF, ICSI and egg-freezing for either medical or elective (social) reasons. Experience of infertility usually means you have had difficulty getting pregnant, and you have attended at least one visit at a fertility clinic. Both men and women can join.

### **What are the possible benefits?**

Almost everyone has benefited in some way from research, even if we don't realise it. People who take part in research projects are contributing to discoveries and information which will help people in the future. By joining the Panel and contributing to future research projects, you can help people who will face infertility or fertility treatments in the future. You may not yourself directly benefit from joining the Panel and taking part in research.

### **What are the possible risks?**

Taking part in this Panel is very low risk. Being contacted about research projects related to infertility or fertility treatments may be stressful or upsetting for some people. You do not have to take part in anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw from the Panel at any time. Just email us ([fertility-researchpanel@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fertility-researchpanel@unimelb.edu.au)) and we can remove your details from our database and the mailing list.

### **What will happen to information about me?**

Information you supply during registration will be stored at the University of Melbourne. This information will remain confidential and will be stored securely. You will then be contacted by the University of Melbourne for research opportunities in the future. These may be projects led by the University, or we may share research opportunities affiliated with other Universities or organisations. Your details will not be shared with any other organisations.

If you wish to be removed from the Panel in the future, please contact the research team and we can "unsubscribe" you from the mailing list and delete you from the Panel database. If you have already taken part in a research project that you learned about via the Panel, you will need to contact the research team about that specific project to withdraw your contribution.

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers ([fertility-researchpanel@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fertility-researchpanel@unimelb.edu.au))

### **Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.