PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

A qualitative study exploring diverse cultures, practices and experiences of GHB use among LGBTQ Australians

Coordinating Principal Investigator: Dr Krista Siefried

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to understand the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender queer (LGBTQ) and non-binary people who use Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB). It will examine the varied contexts and cultures of GHB use among diverse LGBTQ and non-binary population groups. This research will also explore the benefits and harms that LGBTQ and non-binary people associate with GHB use, and develop understandings around how LGBTQ and non-binary people reduce or avoid GHB related harms.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr. Krista Siefried (National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs, UNSW)
- Professor Nadine Ezard (National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs, UNSW)
- Associate Professor Adam Bourne (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University)
- Associate Professor Garrett Prestage (The Kirby Institute, UNSW)
- Professor Kane Race (Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney)
- Dr. Mohamed Hammoud (The Kirby Institute, UNSW)
- Dr. Amy Peacock (National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW)
- Associate Professor Darren Roberts (St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)
- Dr. Jonathan Brett (St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney)
- Mr. Jack Freestone (ACON/UNSW)
- Mr. Anthony Nedanoski (Consumer)

The study is being supported by staff from: ACON (Sydney); Thorne Harbour Health (Melbourne); and Western Australian AIDS Council (Perth). These staff are:

- M. Joel Murray (ACON)
- Mr. Nic Robinson-Griffith (Thorne Harbour Health)
- Ms. Kristina Mitsikas (Western Australian AIDS Council)
- Mr. Christopher Theodoridis (ACON)

Research Funder: This research is being funded by the National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED), who are a research institute within the University of New South Wales. NCCRED is funded by the Department of Health Australia.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to verify that you are eligible to take part. The research study is looking to recruit people who:

- Have consumed GHB on at least three separate occasions within the previous 12 months, *and;*
- Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary or queer, *and;*
- Can communicate in English sufficiently to consent to the study and complete interview;
- Currently live in Australia

Participants who meet the following criteria will be excluded from the study:

- Under the age of 18
- Unwilling to have interview audio recorded

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully and ask questions if necessary;
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep (or we will email it to you or provide a web link where this form can be viewed).

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

If you agree to participate in this study you will be asked to complete the following research procedures.

Screening: Completing the screening measures will determine whether you are eligible to take part and will take approximately five minutes. The screening questionnaire will be administered to you after your verbal consent over the telephone. If after answering the above screening questions you meet the criteria for inclusion, then you will be able to participate in the research project.

A screening questionnaire will ask about:

- your sexual orientation,
- your gender identity,
- your use of GHB within the previous 12 months,
- whether or not you currently live in Australia,
- whether you can verbally communicate in English.

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Interview: The aim of this research is to understand the experiences of LGBTQ people who use GHB; and research participants will be asked to participate in interviews that explore GHB use. In the interview you will be asked specifically about, the context or situations in which you usually use GHB, the people (e.g. relationship with, not names) who you use GHB with, what you enjoy about using GHB, what you do not enjoy about using GHB and whether or not you have experienced and harms related to GHB use. In the interview you will also be asked about your understanding and your practices around preventing harms to yourself or others in the context of using GHB. The interview may bring up some potentially distressing or challenging topics associated with GHB overdose, GHB withdrawal, admission to hospital and sexual consent & assault.

The interviews are confidential. The only time the researcher conducting the interview will break confidentiality is if you disclose intent to hurt yourself or others, in which case the researcher will report this disclosure, your identity and contact details to clinical staff at partnering organisations who will then respond. If you are feeling distressed at the time of interview, you will also be supported to access services and support lines as outlined in **section 11**.

Interviews will take place either face-to-face or via a UNSW Microsoft Teams video call. Participants in Sydney, Melbourne or Perth who choose to complete a face to face interview will be invited to complete their interview at either;

- ACON (414 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills Sydney),
- Western Australian AIDS Council office (664 Murray Street, West Perth); or,
- Thorne Harbour Health (200 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford).

If you do not live in Sydney, Melbourne, or Perth; or if the research team is not able to arrange a mutually convenient time for a face-to-face interview or if COVID-19 restrictions mean that a face-to-face interview is not possible, interviews will take place on UNSW Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a secure, private telehealth online video conferencing platform. Interviews are expected to take approximately 60 minutes and will be audio recorded.

Additional Costs and Reimbursement: There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, you will receive a $50 grocery voucher to reimburse you for any reasonable expenses incurred while completing the interview.

Psychological Distress: You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, the research team will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Alternatively, several free contactable support services are included at **section 11**. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team. This counselling will be provided free of charge.

6. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for:

- A minimum of 7 years after the publication of research results.

The information about you will be stored in a:

- Non-identifiable format where your identity will be unknown.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team to share or use the information collected from you in future research that:

- Will be specific to the aims of this research;
- Will be an extension of, or closely related to, the original project; or is in the same general area of research.

At this time there are no planned secondary research projects. Any future research to utilise your data in this way will undergo its own secondary ethics approval by the UNSW Human Research Ethics Committee.

Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

- Information collected from you in an electronic format will be stored on a UNSW password-protected OneDrive and Microsoft Teams folder only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Audio recordings will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the Chief Principal Investigator Dr Krista Siefried and the designated research team member who conducts your interview. Audio recordings will be made available to a professional transcription service. Recordings will only be made available to a transcription service who have a confidentiality agreement with UNSW.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the **UNSW Privacy Management Plan**.

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

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you or any study participant. The research team and partner organisations, ACON, Thorne Harbour Health and the Western Australian AIDS Council will also update their websites with results from the study. You will be informed where you can find this information when you are interviewed.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate – even after you have signed the consent, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with the University of New South Wales, ACON, Thorne Harbour Health, Western Australian AIDS Council, La Trobe or the University of Sydney. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

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

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC200977

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

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Name	Mr. Jack Freestone
Position	Manager of AOD Research Programs (ACON) & PhD candidate at UNSW
Telephone	0490 293 481
Email	j.freestone@unsw.edu.au

Chief Investigator

Name	Dr. Krista Siefried
Position	Clinical Research Lead and Deputy Director of the National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED)
Telephone	0410 360 102
Email	k.siefried@unsw.edu.au

11. Support Services

Support Services Contact Details

If you are in **NSW** and at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	**Belinda Rimer / ACON**
Position	Intake Officer
Telephone	02 9206 2000
Email	Acon@acon.org.au

If you are in **Victoria or South Australia** and at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	Brandon Jones/Thorne Harbour Health
Position	Senior Intake and Assessment worker
Telephone	(03) 9865 6700
Email	aod@thorneharobur.org

If you are in **Western Australia** any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	Alex Kendrew, Western Australian AIDS Council
Position	Senior Counsellor
Telephone	(08) 9482 0000
Email	akendrew@waaids.com

If you are in **Tasmania, Queensland, the Northern Territory or the ACT** and at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

Name/Organisation	Q Life
Position	Q Life Counselling Team
Telephone	1800 184 527
Email	https://qlife.org.au/contact-us

Further support services for all study participants in all Australian states and territories are listed below.

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Alcohol & Drug Information Service: 1800 250 015
- Family Drug Support 24-hour line: 1300 368 186
- Suicide Call-back Line: 1300 659 467
- Mental Health Crisis Team: 1300 011 511
- After Hours GP Helpline: 1800 022 222
- NSW Rape Crisis: 1800 424 017
- Sexual Assault Counselling Australia: 1800 211 028
- Sexual Health InfoLink: 1800 451 624
- NSW Housing - Link2Home: 1800 152 152

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

- ☐ I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- ☐ I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- ☐ I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- ☐ Recordings: I understand that the research team will audio record the interviews; I agree to be recorded for this purpose.
- ☐ I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- ☐ I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- ☐ I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- ☐ I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;
- ☐ I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.
- ☐ I understand that the results of the research will be made available on the NCCRED, ACON, Thorne Harbour Health and Western Australian AIDS Council websites.
- ☐ I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only.
  Name: _____
  Address: _____
  Email Address: _____

Optional Consent for reuse of data and future research:

- ☐ I provide my consent for the information collected about me to made available to other researchers as described at section 6 of this document.
- ☐ I provide my consent for my name and contact details to be retained in a register so I can be contacted about other research projects in the future.

Participant Signature

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

Witness Signature (optional, only signed when witness has been present for consent discussion)

Name of Witness (please print)	
Signature of Witness	
Date	

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Declaration by Researcher*

I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Researcher Signature*

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

+An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.
Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales, La Trobe, University of Sydney, Thorne Harbour Health or Western Australian AIDS Council

☐ I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn. I am withdrawing my consent to be contacted to participate in further components of this research. I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Krista Siefried
Email:	k.siefried@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	0410 360 102
Postal Address:	NCCRED, St Vincent's Hospital, 390 Victoria Street Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010.