ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

A quantitative study exploring diverse cultures, practices and experiences of GHB use among Australians: an anonymous cross-sectional online survey.

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 cultures, practices and experiences of Australians who use Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) through an anonymous online survey. This research will also explore patterns of use, GHB-related harms, including experiences of non-consensual sex (NCS), and understand knowledge and use of harm-reduction strategies, including perceived or actual barriers to help-seeking.

You have been invited because you expressed interested in the study by completing the online screening survey and you have been deemed eligible to participate.

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
- M. Isa Keatinge

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

- Mr. Nic Robinson-Griffith (Thorne Harbour Health)
- Ms. Kristina Mitsikas (Western Australian AIDS Council)

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 ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- 18 years of age or older, *and;*
- have consumed GHB on at least once within the previous 12 months, *and;*
- currently reside in Australia, *and;*
- be willing to provide online, informed consent, *and;*
- have a high enough level of English to take part.

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

- Under the age of 18 years.

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

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

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

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary), *and;*
- complete the online questionnaire.

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

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire.

Screening: Completing the screening measures will determine whether you are eligible to take part and will take approximately 30 minutes. The screening questionnaire will be administered to you before completion of the online survey. If after answering the 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 age,
- whether or not you currently live in Australia,
- whether you can verbally communicate in English,
- your use of GHB within the previous 12 months.

The study survey will ask you questions about:

- Demographic indicators,
- GHB consumption patterns,

- pleasures associated with GHB use,
- GHB overdose/harm, including non-consensual sexual experiences,
- knowledge of and use of strategies to mitigate or reduce harm,
- GHB dependence severity,
- mental health,
- social support.

The study survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Additional Costs and Reimbursement: There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, you will have the option to be included in a draw to win an iPad as recognition of your participation. If you opt in, you will be able to select either to leave your email or telephone contact. The draw for the iPad will occur once all data has been collected. The details drawn will be contacted and the participant selected will be offered to have the iPad sent to them or to alternatively pick it up at a partner organisation (ACON, WAAC, Thorne Harbour Health, UNSW, St Vincent's Hospital).

If you experience discomfort or feelings of distress while participating in the research and you require support, you can stop participating at any time. You can also tell a member of the research team and they will provide you with assistance or alternatively a list of support services and their contact details are provided below.

6. What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope to use information we get from this research study to develop evidence-based programs to address harms associated with GHB use in the Australian community.

7. What will happen to information about me?

Submission of the online questionnaire is an indication of your consent. By clicking the 'I agree to participate' button you are providing your permission for the research team to collect and use 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.

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 REDCap folder only accessible to the approved research investigators.

8. 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 WAAC will also update their websites with results from the study.

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.

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

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by closing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the research, we will destroy any information that has already been collected. Once you have submitted the questionnaire however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.

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 to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a compliant 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**.

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

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

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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, WAAC
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

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

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24 hours)
- Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 (24 hours)
- National Alcohol & Other Drug Hotline: 1800 250 015
- Family Drug Support 24-hour line: 1300 368 186

1800RESPECT (sexual assault and domestic / family violence helpline): 1800 737 732

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	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC220336

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

By checking the I agree/start questionnaire option below:

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or it has been provided to me in a language that I understand;
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I understand that if necessary, I can ask questions and the research team will respond to my questions.
- 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 understand that I can download a copy of this consent form from www.pivotpoint.org.au

I agree, start questionnaire

- 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 am providing my contact details to allow the research team to send me reimbursement.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in the research proposal 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 AIDS Council.

In withdrawing my consent, I would like any information which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.

Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

Submit withdrawal of consent