Wellbeing Impacts of COVID-19 on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth (WICAT-Y)

Participant Information Sheet: *this is for you to keep*

**What is the research about?**

We want to know how the COVID-19 (or Coronavirus) pandemic has impacted the lives of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as:

- Their mind, mental health and wellbeing
- Work or study
- Connection with friends or family
- Connection with culture, spirituality and country
- How they have dealt with challenges

The research will help develop better resources and health messages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

**Who can participate?**

If you are 16 - 25 years old and identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, you can get involved.

**Who should you contact to find out more?**

If you have any questions about the study or if you change your mind about being in this study you can contact Emily Tay (student investigator):

etay0925@uni.sydney.edu.au 0425 864 932

**What will you be asked to do?**

If you decide to take part in the research, we will ask you to:

- Come along to an interview in October 2020.
- Come along to one or two focus groups in 2021.

You can get involved in all or just some of the research. The interview will take about 1 hour, and the focus group will take up to 2 hours. The interview and focus groups will be conducted by two members of our research team.

**What are the risks and benefits?**

You will receive a $30 voucher for the interview, and a $60 voucher for each focus group that you participate in. There will also be some snacks and drinks available at the interview and focus groups.

Your participation will help us develop better resources to help other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders stay strong in times of stress such as the pandemic.

You might find that talking about your experiences may help you to understand more about your own wellbeing.

You might feel sad or upset when you share your experiences. If you get sad or upset, we will help you get support.
Who are we?
We are part of the Aboriginal and Islander Mental health initiative (AIMhi) at Menzies School of Health Research. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to do research and create tools to promote mental health and wellbeing. We are made up of public health researchers, students, doctors and psychologists.

What happens to my information?
The interview and focus groups will be audio recorded and the transcripts will be analyzed for the purpose of the research. You may request a copy of your interview transcript so that you can check it for accuracy.
Everything you talk about will be confidential and your personal information will not be shared. No identifying information will be published in the final research report.
Personal information will be locked in filing cabinets or on password-protected computers at Menzies so no one can just walk in and see your information. After 5 years we will get rid of it by shredding any hardcopies and deleting computer files.

How do I stop participating?
You can withdraw your consent (stop being in the study) at any time. If you change your mind about being in the study, please contact us on the details over the page.
If you decide to withdraw, we will delete the recording of your interview. However, we will not be able to remove your contributions (your voice) from the focus groups’ recordings.

Do I have to be in the project?
Participation is voluntary. (This means you don’t have to join the project if you don’t want to.)
You can stop working with the project at any time.
You can participate in all or just some of the research.

Ethical issues
Ethical clearance for this research has been received from the Human Research Ethics committee for the Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research (ref 2020-3806).

Staying in Contact
If you agree to be involved in the research, we will contact you to let you know when and where the interviews and focus groups will be held.

Have you completed our online survey yet?
In addition to the interviews and focus groups, we are also running a short online survey. The survey will take you about 10 minutes to complete. Scan the QR code below with your phone camera to go to the survey, or copy this link into your browser: https://tinyurl.com/yyvep4pc

If you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of this study contact:
- Human Research Ethics Committee for the Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research  Ph: (08) 8946 8600 or ethics@menzies.edu.au