

National Platform for the Prevention of Dowry Abuse

Community Member | Participant Information Form

Dowry abuse is a form of family violence in Australia. Dowry abuse refers to controlling, isolating and violent behaviours linked to demands for dowry. Dowry is the transfer of substantial gifts, such as money, property and jewellery, from the bride's family to the groom's family upon marriage. While many driving factors may be connected with dowry abuse, we do not fully understand the reasons why dowry abuse is perpetrated in Australia and what can be done to prevent it.

We would like you to contribute your cultural knowledge and experience in order to understand what causes dowry abuse in communities and what can be done to prevent it.

Step 1. Your participation will involve completing a survey before engaging in a focus group discussion with other community members for **up to two hours**. The survey will be emailed prior or provided to you in a physical copy on the day and will take approximately five (5) minutes to complete. Data from the survey will be de-identified and stored in a secure password-protected file server owned by Migration Council Australia, with the data to be destroyed seven years after the completion of the study.

Focus groups will be held separately for men and for women.

Conversations will be recorded and transcribed. The findings will be analysed to inform the next steps as listed below.

Any information you provide will remain confidential.

Sometimes discussions around dowry abuse and family violence can give rise to emotional discomfort. A trained counsellor will be present during the focus group and referral to support services will be made available.

You may leave the focus group at any time.

After the focus group, there will be an opportunity for participants to debrief and access any support services required. The discussions will be audio taped, transcribed and analysed, for the purpose of informing the development of interventions to prevent dowry abuse, such as the delivery of education programs for community groups and professionals. If you do not wish to be recorded, please inform the researchers prior to the focus group and you will be seated outside of the device's recording range. If you are recorded and during the discussion you decide to withdraw your contribution, it may be difficult to delete your contribution from the recording so please advise the researchers beforehand.

In recognition of the time and effort spent, each participant in the focus group will receive a gift voucher.

Step 2. You may be invited to participate in an educational workshop after the focus groups are completed. The workshop will be held in 2021. If you choose to participate in the workshop, you will be invited to complete a survey or one-to-one interview afterwards to provide feedback. You may decline to participate in both the workshop and feedback process.

This project has been approved by The Melbourne Clinic Human Research Ethics Committee. The project number is 336.

If you have any complaints or concerns, please contact:

Professor Bruce Singh

The Melbourne Clinic

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If you have any questions about the project or your potential involvement, please contact:

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