

## **MODEL DRUG LAW. A PATH TO BETTER DRUG LAWS FOR AOTEAROA SURVEY - PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

Kia ora,

We would like to invite you to participate in our research study looking at the impacts of current drug laws on people who are at risk of experiencing drug-related harms. Before you decide, please read this information sheet carefully. It tells you why we are doing this research and what it might mean for you. Please ask if you have any questions.

### **About the project**

NZ Drug Foundation | Te Puna Whakaiti Pāmamae Kai Whakapiri is conducting this research to develop recommendations for policy change to make sure that New Zealand's drug laws are fit for purpose. We want to hear from the communities affected by drug harms about what a better way to control drugs could look like.

This year, our drug laws (Misuse of Drugs Act 1975) will turn 50. Since these laws were created, the drug markets have changed a lot. We know that our current laws don't help people access harm reduction and addiction treatment.

This survey will help us get a better understanding of some of the harms that take place under current drug laws so we can develop recommendations for reducing these harms.

The project is funded by Borrin Foundation.

### **Why have I been invited, and do I have to take part?**

You have been invited to participate because you or somebody close to you is at risk or has experienced harms related to drug use. We would love to hear from you if you (or someone close to you that you have supported) have experienced one or more of the following in relation to using drugs:

- Personally used illicit drugs
- Experienced drug addiction
- Experienced an overdose
- Been treated for drug addiction
- Injected drugs
- Accessed opioid substitution therapy
- Sold drugs to other people
- Been charged or convicted for drug-related offence(s)
- Been in jail for drug-related offence(s)



- Been homeless

To take part in the workshop, you must:

- identify with one or more of the experiences listed above, or have supported someone who has experienced those,
- be aged 18 or over,
- be able to speak English.

**Whether or not you take part is your choice.** If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason, and there will be no negative consequences. If you do want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can simply close the survey at any point up until you click SUBMIT at the end of it.

Because the survey is anonymous and we cannot identify which set of responses has been done by you, when you click SUBMIT at the end of the survey, there will be no possibility to withdraw.

You can choose not to provide an answer to questions in the survey by either skipping it, or choosing the 'Prefer not to say' option. However, there are a few questions early in the survey that you will need to answer if you want to participate, because we have to make sure you are eligible to take part in our survey.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to fill in a survey that has a mix of closed and open questions. We expect that it will take you about 10-15 minutes on average. We encourage you to share with us as openly as you are comfortable to do. We ask you not to provide any information that could identify yourself or other people in the open text boxes of the survey. Such information could include names, addresses, contact details or similar.

### **What are the benefits and risks of this study?**

We hope that this research helps inform the public discussion about making our drug laws better for New Zealanders. We believe that having input from people who are directly affected by these laws is the best way to make sure that our laws are better.

To thank you for your participation, we invite you to take part in a draw to win one of the 10 eGift vouchers of \$50 each. You don't have to participate in the draw, but if you do, you will need to provide your email address so we can get in touch to let you know if you're one of the winners. You will be directed to a different form to enter your email address after you've completed the survey. This means that your contact details will be kept separately from your survey responses to protect its anonymity.



We know that drugs or drug policies sometimes cause harms to people and their communities. It can be an upsetting experience to talk about these experiences, and we are very grateful for your generosity in sharing with us. Remember, there is help available.

If you or someone close to you is worried about drug harm or addiction, please see the following resources:

[The Level](#)

[Alcohol & Drug Helpline](#) - 0800 787 797

[Healthpoint](#) - a list of mental health and addiction services available across New Zealand

If you are specifically concerned about drug use of someone in your whānau, contact [Family Drug Support Aotearoa](#)

### **What will happen to the information that I share?**

The survey is anonymous, and we will not collect your personal information. We will also not collect your IP information that could be used to identify people online.

We ask you not to provide any identifiable information (such as names, addresses, phone numbers, etc) about yourself or others in the survey. If you do accidentally provide such information, we will delete this as we become aware of it.

While the survey is running the data will be stored on password-protected Typeform servers. Once the survey opening time is over, we will delete the survey data from the Typeform servers, and transfer it to our secure folders. The survey data will be stored digitally in NZ Drug Foundation secure folders, with access available only for a small number of the study team who will take part in data analysis. After releasing the main research report, we will store the data digitally in a secure password-controlled folder for 5 years. After this period, all data will be destroyed.

The email addresses provided as part of the prize draw will also be transferred to our secure servers after the survey run is finished. They will never be connected to your survey responses. We will delete them as soon as we have distributed all the vouchers successfully to the draw winners.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results of the study will be published in a report that will be freely available on the NZ Drug Foundation website. We will also reach out to communities of people who use drugs through our social media and The Level to share the report.

We will also use the learnings from this research to inform our public policy advice and communications, to support our organisation's vision of Aotearoa free from drug harm.

We will also write a progress report for Borrin Foundation (the study sponsor) where we will include the findings (most likely in the form of attaching the public report).

We may also publish the results in scientific journals and present the findings during conferences.



### **What are my rights?**

You do not have to participate in this research if you don't want to. If you do decide to participate, you have the right to:

- choose not to answer any question – with the exception of eligibility questions;
- withdraw from the study before you click SUBMIT button at the end of the survey,
- ask questions about the study at any time by contacting our study team;
- be able to read the reports of this research – please monitor our website and/or social media for release

### **Who can I contact if I have any questions or problems?**

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact:

**Dr Jacek Kolodziej** (NZ Drug Foundation Policy Director and study Principal Investigator):

[jacek.kolodziej@drugfoundation.org.nz](mailto:jacek.kolodziej@drugfoundation.org.nz)

This research has been assessed and approved by the Aotearoa Research Ethics Committee (AREC 25\_33). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Coordinator of AREC, on [admin@aotearoaresearchethics.org](mailto:admin@aotearoaresearchethics.org)