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Chemical Practices: Enhancement and experimentation

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT (CONSUMER ONLINE SURVEY)

(1) What is this study about?

This study explores licit and illicit drug use among people from sexual and gender minorities. It focuses on how people consume drugs to transform their gendered and sexual experience, how they learn about the effects of particular drugs and how they take steps to minimise harms and maximise the positive effects of their preferred drugs. You have been invited to participate because you have lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) experience. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. **Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part; participation in this study is voluntary.**

By giving consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Associate Professor Kane Race (University of Sydney)
- Dr Kiran Pienaar (Monash University)
- Dr Toby Lea (University of New South Wales)
- Dr Dean Murphy (University of Sydney)

(3) What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this research, we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire. The questionnaire comprises questions about drug use, which includes a broad range of drugs (or substances)—for example, illicit drugs, prescription pharmaceuticals, steroids, hormone-replacement therapy, and antiretrovirals, among others. The study will explore which substances/drugs you consume, your experiences of how these drugs affect aspects of your sexual or gender identity, and the strategies you have used to minimise possible harms and maximise positive effects.

The manufacturing and distribution of illicit drugs is not part of this project; we do not seek or require this information.

At the end of the survey you will be given the opportunity to let other people know about the survey by sending them a link to the study website, or by posting a link to the study on your social media (Facebook or Twitter) pages.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

We estimate that the survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney, Monash University, or the University of New South Wales.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this by simply closing your browser window. However, your responses to the survey questions up to the point at which you stopped, will be included in the study.

(6) Are there any risks or costs for me if I participate?

We don't expect the survey questions will cause harm. However, it is possible that reflecting on drug use experiences, or issues connected to sexuality and gender, could cause distress for some participants. If you experience feelings of distress as a result of participation in this study you can let the research team know and they will provide you with contact details of services that provide free, confidential support to LGBTQ individuals.

(7) Are there any benefits for me if I take part?

We intend to use information gathered from this research study to inform service providers and policymakers about ways to improve services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

and queer communities. So, in this way, you may receive indirect benefits as a result of your participation in this study.

(8) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

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 study. Your data will be securely stored in a secure server at the University of Sydney.

Survey data will be collected using REDCap, which is a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases. Data entered into REDCap runs on the University of Sydney's servers, which provides increased security.

If you provide your contact details to receive your online gift card, and/or to receive the project report, your contact details will be stored separately from your survey responses. This will ensure that your responses remain confidential.

Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will only be disclosed with your permission, except in the event that it is required to be produced in response to a subpoena or warrant. If such a request is made, the researchers will be required to produce the data. You will not be identified in any publications arising from the study.

(9) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(10) What if I would like further information about the study?

If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Associate Professor Kane Race on 02 9351 3662 or kane.race@sydney.edu.au

(11) Will I be told the results of the study?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by filling out the form on this website. This feedback will be in the form of an email update with a one-page plain-language summary. Otherwise, if you don't want to provide your contact details, you can visit this website at any time.

(12) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (Project no. 2017/735). As part of

this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

Support Services Contact Details

If at any stage during the study you become distressed or require professional support please contact:

Name/Organisation	QLife (Free National telephone and web counselling for LGBTI people 3pm-12am daily)
Telephone	1800184527
Web address	Qlife.org.au

Name/Organisation	Beyond Blue (Free National telephone support 24 hours/7 days a week)
Telephone	1300224636
Web address	http://www.beyond.org.au/

Name/Organisation	Victorian AIDS Council (for Victorian-based participants)
Telephone	(03) 9865 6700 or 1800 134 840
Services	Face-to-face and phone counselling Monday-Friday

Name/Organisation	ACON (for NSW-based participants)
Telephone	02 9206 2000
Web address	http://www.acon.org.au/who-we-are-here-for/people-who-use-drugs/#substance-support-counselling
Services	Substance-support counselling (Face-to-face and phone counselling; Monday–Friday)