**Collaborative Evaluation & Research Centre**

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| PROJECT TITLE: | Adolescent Post-Traumatic Growth and how it is influenced in Bushfire Impacted Communities. A Mixed Methods Study. |
| CHIEF INVESTIGATOR: | Professor Joanne Porter |
| OTHER/STUDENT RESEARCHERS: | Paul Kemel Professor Louisa Remedios Professor Andrew Lewis |

**Introduction**

You are invited to be a part of a study to understand how young people cope and grow after a bushfire. You are receiving this invitation because of your role as a stakeholder in the care and mental health support of adolescents impacted by the 2019 Gippsland bushfires.

Please read the following section carefully to help decide if you would like to participate in this study. Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation from this project at any time. Refusal to participate in this study requires no explanation.

**What is this study about?**

This study seeks to explore how young people have recovered after the 2019 Gippsland bushfires and the role of support services in aiding their recovery. By understanding how these services have been experienced by adolescents, we aim to develop improved support strategies for future events.

**What Will You Be Asked to Do?**

If you agree to participate, you will be invited to an interview with a researcher. The interview will take up to one hour and can be conducted online at a time that suits you. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your role in providing support to adolescents after the bushfires and your perspective on how these services helped in their recovery. Any information you provide will be kept confidential, and your identity will not be disclosed. The information will be securely stored for five years and then deleted.

**Content Warning**

The topics discussed may touch on sensitive issues related to mental health following a traumatic event, which could bring up strong emotions. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, you can skip a question or stop the interview without any consequences. If you need support, the following services are available:

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| Lifeline | 13 11 14 | [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) |
| Beyond Blue | 1300 224 636 | [www.https://www.beyondblue.org.au/](http://www.https://www.beyondblue.org.au/) |
| Bush Support Line | 1800 805 392 | <https://crana.org.au/mental-health-wellbeing/call-1800-805-391> |

**What if I Don’t Want to Participate or I Want to Withdraw?**

You are free to decide whether to participate in this study, and you may withdraw at any time. There will be no consequences for choosing not to participate, and you do not need to provide a reason for discontinuing. However, if your data has already been processed and anonymized, it may not be possible to withdraw it.

The research team have received approval from the Federation University Australia, Human Research Ethics Committee for the conduct of this project. (Approval number 2024/164)

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| If you have any questions, or you would like further information regarding the project titled Adolescent Post-Traumatic Growth and how it is influenced in Bushfire Impacted Communities. A Mixed Methods Study, please contact the Chief Investigator, Professor Joanne Porter of the Collaborative Evaluation & Research Centre.  **EMAIL: joanne.porter@federation.edu.au**  **PH: (03) 5122-6440** |
| Should you (i.e. the participant) have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this research project, please contact the Coordinator - Research Ethics, Research Services, Federation University Australia,  P O Box 663 Mt Helen Vic 3353  Telephone: (03) 5327 9765  Email: [research.ethics@federation.edu.au](mailto:research.ethics@federation.edu.au)  CRICOS Provider Number 00103D |