

## Explanatory Statement Form



### Project

**What constitutes success in Higher Education in Australia for Students with Disability?**

### Research team

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- **Student Investigator:** Ms. Edwina Newham, PhD student, Swinburne University of Technology  
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### About the Project and Invitation to Participate

The measures of student success in Higher Education, and what success constitutes is complex and the many difficulties students with disability can experience in undertaking Higher Education compared to non-disabled students, are wide and varied. This project has stemmed from the experience of student investigator Edwina Newham's role as an Accessibility Adviser, working with students who have disability.

The role of Accessibility is to assist students with disability to navigate the Higher Education system and understand policy, and processes under the remit of 'reasonable adjustments' which can be complex and difficult. The challenges of having disability, have a big impact on student participation and success in Higher Education. This study will use interview data to give voice to Accessibility students to provide a better understanding of factors that support student success.

### What this project is about and why it is being undertaken

Student success in Higher Education, and what success constitutes is complex and multifaceted. This project examines these important factors by listening to students with disability and challenging the established conceptualization and measure of success in Higher Education. It aims to show how there are better ways to understand and achieve success, leading to recommendations for the university sector.

### Project and researcher interests

The project is to satisfy the requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy

### What participation will involve

**TIME:** We will require approximately 30 – 45 minutes of your time for semi-structured interview conducted remotely. The time and day of the interview will be scheduled on weekdays between business hours 9AM – 5PM.

**Information Technology requirements:** The interviews will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams or Zoom, and will be recorded, and later transcribed. You will need access to a secure internet connection, headphones/webcam and have downloaded Microsoft Teams/Zoom software onto your PC/laptop. The option for the camera (webcam) to be on or off is for purposes of the participants comfort only. No visual recordings/observations will be taken.

**PARTICIPATION:** Your participation is completely voluntary, and you will be required to sign a consent form. We ask for your time only and you can withdraw from the interview at any time. Taking part in the research is entirely voluntary.

**WITHDRAWING:** If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later

change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage, and all your data will be deleted.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your enrolment at university or relationship with Accessibility services at your university.

**Please Note:**

- There is no monetary compensation for your participation.
- If the interviews are a cause of distress, we recommend you contact your local health service/psychological service for support or call Lifeline on 13 11 14.
- We ask that you withdraw your participation from this project if you:
  - a) Are involved in student misconduct or student sanctions or Safer Communities at your University.
  - b) Have a current complaint with your university.
  - c) You are unwell and unable to participate to the best of your abilities.

**Participant rights and interests – Free Consent/Withdrawal from Participation**

You are free to participate or not and can withdraw from the project at any time. The interview recordings will not be shared or released to academic staff or other services. The interviews will have no bearing on your academic results, treatment, or employment.

**Participant rights and interests – Privacy & Confidentiality**

Your data will be stored securely, identifying data will be removed, and could be retained for a period of 5 years after publication date, then securely destroyed.

Please refer to Swinburne University's Privacy policy: <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/privacy/>)

Signed consent forms will be stored with interview data. All data will be stored securely and only accessible to the research team listed on this form.

We may contact you after the interview to ensure the accuracy of the data that has been collected.

The deidentified data may be used for research purposes of PhD research by the student investigator.

**Research output**

The research is intended for a PhD thesis.

Your confidentiality/anonymity will be maintained. We can make available any report or article or summary, by written request from the participant. In some cases, if follow-up contact may be an issue in itself and the procedure should be carefully considered and outlined.

**Further information about the project**

If you would like further information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact:

- **Student Investigator:** Ms Edwina Newham, PhD student, Swinburne University of Technology  
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**Concerns/complaints about the project – who to contact:**

This project has been approved by or on behalf of Swinburne's Human Research Ethics Committee (SUHREC) in line with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this project, you can contact:

Research Ethics Officer, Swinburne Research (H68),  
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