

# Plain Language Statement



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

**Research Project Title:** **IDES: Improving Disability Employment Study**  
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**Other Investigators:** Dr Allison Milner, Professor Tony Lamontage, Dr Cathy Vaughan, Professor Rebecca Bentley and A/Prof Helen Dickinson

**The Partner Investigators and Partner Organisations** Peak disability bodies and employment services, including National Disability Services, Jobs Australia, Disability Employment Australia, and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

**HREC Project Number:** 1545810

## Introduction

The aim of the study is to find out more about what helps people with disability to get jobs and continue to work in jobs that they find meaningful.

## Why am I being asked to participate in this study?

Your experiences in accessing employment assistance services to find work is valuable to us.

## What is the purpose of this study?

The research project will find out about what aspects of employment service providers, jobseekers and workplaces make a difference to gaining and keeping jobs. The findings from the research will help to make better government policy in this area and contribute to changes in employment services for people with disability. It will also help employers to know how they can support people with disability in the workplace.

## What does the study involve and how much time will it take?

This study will involve:

- Two interviews over a 12-month period. The questionnaires will be available online or by telephone. The second interview will take place 12 months after the first interview. Each of the interviews will last approximately 30-40 minutes.
- A research company called The Social Research Centre will be in contact with you to complete these surveys or you can choose to complete this online straight away after meeting with your employment consultant.
- The survey will have questions about your experiences of employment services, your experiences at work and your work history, including your training and education. There are also questions about your health. The researchers also want to find out what kind of work you would like to do.
- Through-out the project you will receive electronic newsletters updating you on progress and findings as a thank you from the research team for the time you have invested in the study.
- After completion of the surveys, you will go into a prize draw to win an iPad, a \$50 Coles/Myer voucher or a \$20 Coles/Myer voucher.

## **What are the advantages/benefits of participating in this study?**

The study and your participation will provide valuable information that may help other people with disability to get jobs and continue to work in jobs that they find meaningful. The research will help to show how employment is linked to the well-being of people with disability.

## **Are there any risks in participating in this study?**

Your involvement in this research project will involve exploring issues associated with your disability and seeking employment. Beyond this, the researchers do not foresee any risks resulting from participation in this study. If there are any questions in the questionnaire that you do not want to answer, you do not have to answer all questions if you don't want to. In the instance that any of the questions upset you, you may also wish to contact the project coordinator or any of the organizations:

**BeyondBlue**                      **1300 22 4636**  
*Depression and anxiety support service*

**LifeLine**                              **13 11 14**  
*Crisis support service*

## **Confidentiality and privacy – What will happen to the information I provide?**

Your responses will be completely confidential and will be held by the University of Melbourne. No one from your employment services provider, or from your workplace will have access to your responses. All data will be stored in a secure, restricted-access area in the University of Melbourne and will be restricted to research staff working on the project. All information will be stored for seven years in accordance with the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council and the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles.

## **Publication of results**

The results of the study will be reported in grouped format. We will never report any names or any other individual identifying information. The project will send out electronic newsletters and we will set up a web-site for participants, the research team and interested stakeholders. The study's overall findings will be reported as articles for publication in academic journals and at relevant conferences and educational forums.

## **Can I withdraw from the study?**

Your involvement in this research project is completely voluntary and will have no impact on your access to employment services. If you wish to withdraw from the research project at any point or to withdraw any information which has not yet been processed you are completely free to do so.

## **What if I have any enquiries, concerns or complaints about the study?**

This project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through the University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee. The Project ID is '1545810'.

### **If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact:**

Manager, Human Research Ethics  
Research Ethics and Integrity  
The University of Melbourne  
Phone: +61 0. 8344 2073  
Email: [humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au)

### **If you have questions regarding the study, please contact:**

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