



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### Victorian members of the Limbs 4 Life organisation

**Project ID:** 14839

**Title:** The impact of the Limbs 4 Life Amputee Peer Support Program from the perspective of program participants, peer support volunteers and referring health professionals.

**Chief Investigator's name** Dr Narelle Warren

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

#### **What does the research involve?**

The Amputee Peer Support Program is an early intervention model and provides a vital link for individuals pre or post amputation (and their families) and / or those who undergo reconstructive surgery for the purpose of prosthetic limb fittings. The program works to provide a holistic “whole of family” approach including support for primary care givers and extended support networks.

The overall aim of this study is to determine the value of the Amputee Peer Support Program on program participants from the view of peer support program participants, peer support volunteers and referring health professionals. The specific aim of this particular survey is to understand the perceptions of the Victorian Limbs 4 Life organisation members and stakeholders, with respect to general needs, peer support needs, and interest in group empowerment leadership roles.

Participating in the study will involve completing a 10-15 minute survey to ask you question about your views on the program, on your current general needs and needs for peer support, and future interest in peer support leadership roles.

**Why were you chosen for this research?**

You were invited to participate in this study because you are a Victorian based member / stakeholder of the Limbs for Life organisation.

**Source of funding**

This research project been funded by NDIS in an ILC grant.

**Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

- (i) The consent process involves ticking a box at the start of the survey
- (ii) You (the participant) have the right to withdraw from further participation at any stage. For example, if you tick the box to participate in a focus group you are able to change your mind at any time.
- (iii) At any time during the survey you are able to withdraw by exiting the survey without pressing the submit button. However, it is not possible to withdraw data after pressing the submit button as the project involves the submission of an anonymous survey.
- (iv) The alternative available is to choose not to participate.

**Possible benefits and risks to participants**

There is no benefit to the current participants and volunteers, however there are possible benefits for future program participants and volunteers as the program in Victoria will be modified and / or expanded based on the feedback you provide. There is a potential level of inconvenience to you (the participant) as the survey will take 10 minutes to complete. There are no reasonably foreseeable risks of harm or side-effects to the potential participants.

**Payment**

There is no payment or reward offered to participants.

**Confidentiality**

Anonymity of the data will be maintained as no identifiable data will be provided to the researchers. The results of this research will be publish in a peer review journal and presented at a conference. In addition, a summary of the results will be published in the "Amplified" newsletter. This is the Limbs 4 Life newsletter that is sent to all current and past program participants and volunteers.

**Storage of data**

Data will be stored on a password protected database at Limbs 4 Life and only the research team and administrators employed by Limbs 4 Life will have access. Data will be destroyed in accordance with the Monash Data Management Policy.

**Results**

Participants will be able to access a copy of the results via the "Amplified" newsletter. This is the Limbs 4 Life newsletter that is sent to all current and past program participants and volunteers.

**Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Room 111, Chancellery Building D,

26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus

Research Office

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Thank you,

**Dr Narelle Warren**

**Chief Investigator**