

What does my participation involve?

1 Introduction

This Participant Information Consent Form (PICF) describes detailed information on the research project. This information will assist you in understanding the research. Before you make the decision to participate, please read this information carefully. Make note of any questions or concerns that you might have and contact the research affiliate to discuss.

Participation in this research is voluntary, which means you do not have to take part in this study if you do not wish to do so.

After reading this consent form, you decide to take part in the project, your next step will be to complete the survey. By completing the survey, we know that you:

- Understand what you have read.
- Consent to take part in the research project.

This document is downloadable and can be saved to your laptop/desktop upon completion.

2 What is the purpose of this research?

Background and context

The phenomenon of social entrepreneurship has evolved over the last few decades and means different things to different people. The context of this research is the social enterprise, and the objective is to explore women social entrepreneurs to better understand their role and leadership styles. The research team is focused on untangling the complex notion of leadership within the social enterprise.

The aims of this study are:

This study will provide a better understanding of the lived experiences and leadership practices of women social entrepreneurs. The outcomes of the research will uncover strategies that can support the growth and development of other women social entrepreneurs, and lead to a better understanding of the contributions and barriers women social entrepreneur encounter.

The project fills the gap

Social entrepreneurship research has surged over the last two decades. At its most basic level, social entrepreneurship is doing business for a social cause. Social entrepreneurs combine commerce and social issues in a way that improves the lives of people. Founded on this generic aim, the subsequent research seeks to understand women social entrepreneurs who in the broader category of social entrepreneurship, have generally not been studied. Moreover,

from the literature, little is known about how and if women run their social ventures systematically different from their male counterparts.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

Participation in this research projects includes:

- (1) completion of one anonymous online survey.
- (2) option to volunteer for a one-one one interview.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

4 Other relevant information about the research project

The online survey begins with screening questions to ensure you meet the requirements of the project. Your response to the screening question will determine if you can move forward with participation in the research project. If you choose to participate in the interview section of the process, you can voluntarily opt for it.

Your confidentiality and privacy will be maintained.

Once you complete the survey, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are nonidentifiable and therefore, we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

If can elect to participate in the interview portion of this project. The interview will be in a 1:1 format and is expected to last an hour. There is the potential for a follow-up interview to clarify and/or verify your responses. Interviews will be tape recorded solely for the purpose of transcription and analysis. All information will be de-identified, so that it cannot be connected back to you. Your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym in the write-up of this project. The interviewer will be the only person with access to a list connecting your name to the pseudonym. This list, along with any tape recordings will be kept in a secure, locked location.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. 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.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, your participation may contribute to knowledge and the potential to impact policy and governance. Possible benefits may include understanding the future of your work to help future women social entrepreneurs.

7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

The research team does not anticipate that you will be harmed or distressed because of participation in this research. You may stop your participation at any time you become uncomfortable.

This research uses a secure external site to collect and analyse the survey data. The responses you provide will be stored on a host server. No personal, identifiable information will be collected.

The research website will be used for the sole purpose of this research. Once we have completed the data collection and analysis, the data will be imported into a data file and stored securely for five years. The website and host server will then be deleted and expunged.

8 What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you consent to participate, and do not complete the online survey, we will take this as your decision to no longer participate.

If you decide to withdraw after completing all or a portion the survey, the data you submitted may not be deleted because the survey is anonymous. Submitted data is not identifiable.

If you indicated an interest in the interview portion of the project and change your mind, you will have the option to withdraw.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

All information is anonymous, so your responses cannot be connected back to you. The data collected will be analysed for publication use. Once we have completed the data collection and analysis, the data will be imported into a data file and stored securely for five

years. The website and host server will then be deleted and expunged. Audio recordings of the interviews will also be deleted.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information about me?

Because the survey is anonymous, the information you submit will not be identifiable.

By continuing with the survey, you are consenting to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. The data will be confidential and available to the investigator and co-investigators working in the project.

Interviews will be tape recorded solely for the purpose of transcription and analysis. All information will be de-identified, so that it cannot be connected back to you. Your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym in the write-up of this project. The interviewer will be the only person with access to a list connecting your name to the pseudonym. This list, along with any tape recordings will be kept in a secure, locked location.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission. Raw data will not be presented and published.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is protect you or others from harm, (2) if specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

11 Who is organizing the research?

We are a global project team being organized by four of ILA members who have come together to do this project and conducting the study.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

13 Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the researcher or any of the following people:

List the names and contact phone numbers of other appropriate persons involved in the project (add contacts persons as necessary).

Research contact person

Name	John Burgess
Position	Professor, Centre for Organisational Change and Agility, Torrens University, Australia
Telephone	
Email	john.burgess@torrens.edu.au

14 Complaints

Should you have any concerns or questions about this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the researchers listed in this document, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	
HREC Secretary	
Telephone	
Email	
Mailing address	

Acknowledgement by Participant – by continuing on to the survey:

I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project without affecting my relationship with RMIT.

I understand that I can print or download a copy of this document to keep.