

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

**Project title:** Digital Health Access, Inclusion, and Equity for Middle Eastern, Latin American and African Women in Aotearoa, New Zealand

**Name of Principal Investigator (PI):** Rachel Tapera  
**Name of Co-Investigator:** Dr Rodrigo Ramalho  
**Name of Co-Investigator:** Dr Anneka Anderson

### Project description and invitation

You are invited to participate in a community hui, part of a research project exploring the experiences of women from Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African (MELAA) communities with digital health information. We seek to understand how MELAA communities, particularly the women, engage with the Internet to support their health practices. We want to learn from your experiences using the Internet.

### Who can participate in this community hui?

You can participate in this community hui if you:

- Identify as a woman aged 16 years and above.
- Self-identify as Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.
- Reside in Auckland.
- Can communicate in English.

### What are you expected to do?

Once you have expressed interest in participating in this community hui, you will attend the hui being held on the date, time and venue you selected. The hui will take up to two hours and will be held in person or online via Zoom. You will be a part of a group of six to eight women from Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African communities. You will be discussing your experiences using the Internet for health.

A facilitator will guide the discussion, and it will be audio-recorded. You can ask for the audio recording device to be turned off at any point during the discussion. Your participation in the community hui is entirely your choice (voluntary). If you agree to participate in this community hui, you are free to withdraw from the discussion at any time without giving a reason. If, for any reason, you feel uncomfortable or upset at any point during the discussion, we will stop the discussion. Referrals to healthcare and cultural support will be provided if necessary.

You will receive a token of gratitude (\$50 supermarket voucher) in appreciation for giving up your time for this project (even if you decide to withdraw from the discussion).

### Informed consent

Before the hui starts, you will need to give your consent to participate. You can provide written or verbal consent. The written consent forms will be appropriately digitised and stored in an encrypted folder on the University-managed research drive. The paper forms will be disposed of securely through the disposal company that provides security for confidential documents. The verbal consent will be audio recorded, appropriately digitised, and stored in an encrypted folder on the University-managed research drive.

### Right to Withdraw from Participation

You can withdraw from the hui by leaving the hui or not answering questions at any time without giving a reason. Please note that withdrawing any discussion information from the hui is not possible as this may fundamentally alter the discussion.

### Anonymity and Confidentiality

Identifiable participant data will only be accessible by the research team listed at the top of this participant information sheet. Any information you share in this project will be de-identified, where we will change or delete material that could personally identify you (let other people know who you are) in any reports on this project. We will try hard to ensure confidentiality during this study through de-identification; however, we cannot guarantee it, given that several people will participate in this community hui. Given this, we will ask all participants to keep the identity of others confidential and not share any personal information discussed.

You have the option to choose how you would like to be named in the research data, reports, and publications. You can choose a pseudonym, or we can choose one for you. Also, you can use your real name. If you wish to use your real name, you will be asked to provide written consent to opt-in.

### Data management

The recording will not be shared with any third party. We will make a transcript of the recording. [If a third party is used to transcribe the interview, they will sign a confidentiality agreement]. The audio recording will be appropriately digitised and stored in an encrypted folder on the University managed research drive. The transcript will be stored securely in an encrypted folder on the University managed research drive.

All the electronic files will be stored in encrypted folders on the University managed research drive.

The findings from this project will be presented to the participants and MELAA communities at an information dissemination hui. The findings will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at conferences and other public meetings.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Rachel Tapera at [rachel.tapera@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:rachel.tapera@auckland.ac.nz)

### Contact details

Please contact us with any concerns or require more information about this project.

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<p><b>Professor Papaarangi Reid,</b> <b>Tumuaki,</b> Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019 Auckland 1142, New Zealand Email: <a href="mailto:p.reid@auckland.ac.nz">p.reid@auckland.ac.nz</a> Tel: +6493737599 Ext.84853</p>	<p><b>For any queries regarding ethical concerns, you can contact;</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142 Email: <a href="mailto:ahrec@auckland.ac.nz">ahrec@auckland.ac.nz</a> Tel: +643737599 ext. 83711</p>	
<p><b>For counselling and support services, you can contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor.</li> <li>• The Depression Helpline – 0800 111 757 or free text 4202 to talk to a trained counsellor about your feelings or to ask any questions.</li> </ul>		