

# Participant Information Sheet



## Date Information Sheet Produced:

May 2011

## Project Title

Infertility and Partner experiences in New Zealand: An exploration into the non-infertile partner's experience using focus groups.

## An Invitation

Hi. My name is Yasmin Scott and I am a student at AUT University, completing a Masters of Health Science in Psychology. I wish to invite you to participate in a research project on Infertility.

So far, much of the research into infertility has focused on the experiences of the infertile person. For this project, we would like to give the non-infertile partner a voice.

This research is completely voluntary and you are able to withdraw at any stage. We hope that you see the value in participating in this project as it will provide valuable insight into the way YOU feel about infertility.

## What is the purpose of this research?

This research will provide insight into the journey of infertility including; discovering infertility, consideration alternative options such as adoption and donors, impact on relationships, and coping behaviours, to mention only a few of the areas of interest. The outcomes of this study will also provide valuable insights that will aid professionals and counsellors working in the broader field of infertility.

The wider purpose of this research is to provide a voice and advance research for non-infertile partners.

## How was I identified and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

I'm recruiting the partners of those individuals facing infertility difficulties, who were identified with the help of Fertility New Zealand. However, no identifying information about you or your partner will have been given to me directly. Instead, if you are interested, you will be given my information to contact.

## What will happen in this research?

Participation in this study involves participating in a focus group of up to three people—all of the same gender. With the guidance of a qualified group facilitator, members of the groups will be asked to share their thoughts, experiences and perceptions related to being the non-infertility partner in a relationship that is experiencing infertility.

## What are the discomforts and risks, and how will they be alleviated?

We do not anticipate that participation in this study will cause you any physical discomfort or risk. Nonetheless, we do acknowledge that answering personal questions may be somewhat uncomfortable; therefore, participants do not need to answer any question that they feel may be too difficult to answer. Furthermore, the nature of the study means that you will only be identifiable to the researchers.

As researchers, we are also aware of the risk of *social desirability*: this is when a person desires to make a good impression to the researcher and others in the group, resulting in the desire to give answers that will enhance how one appears to others, instead of answering honestly. The strength of the study lies in the truthfulness of your contributions, and so we ask that you answer all of the questions as honestly as possible, even if you feel it may reflect poorly on you. Remember that the confidential nature of the study means that no one outside of the group will be able to identify you from any of your contributions.

### What are the benefits?

The benefit to you is an opportunity to advance New Zealand research generally, as well as to add to the growing field of literature on infertility. This will aid the counsellors and other professionals working in the field, as well as the countless people who experience infertility. It is also hoped that participants will gain greater personal insights through an increased understanding of their individual journeys with infertility.

### How will my privacy be protected?

You will only be known to the researchers and no identifying information is collected. Since the focus groups/interviews are completely confidential, without any mechanism to identify you, we strongly encourage you to be as honest and as forthcoming as possible as this will increase the accuracy of the study's findings. As fellow participants it is asked that you also keep content discussed confidential, please note that while confidentiality is encouraged, due to the nature of focus groups it cannot be completely guaranteed.

### What are the costs of participating in this research?

Your only costs will be time and petrol. It is estimated that focus groups/interviews will last up to 90 minutes and the focus groups/interviews will be held at the AUT University North Shore Campus.

### How do I agree to participate in this research?

In order to participate all you need to do is complete the consent form and send to Yasmin Scott by putting the completed consent form into the pre-paid envelope or by e-mailing Yasmin Scott directly. Completing the consent form indicates your consent to participate in this study.

### Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

A summary of the project and its major findings will be given to you by your preference.

### What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Project Supervisor, *Dr Rhoda Scherman*, [rhoda.scherman@aut.ac.nz](mailto:rhoda.scherman@aut.ac.nz), (09) 921-9999 Ext. 7228.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary, AUTEK, Madeline Banda, [madeline.banda@aut.ac.nz](mailto:madeline.banda@aut.ac.nz), 921 9999 ext 8044.

Concerns regarding health, counselling and wellbeing please contact AUT University's Health, Counselling and Wellbeing centre 09 921 9992 City Campus or 09 921 9998 North Shore campus to make an appointment. You will need to let the receptionist know that they are a research participant and provide your contact details to confirm this. You can find out more information about our counsellors and the option of online counselling on our website:

[http://www.aut.ac.nz/students/student\\_services/health\\_counselling\\_and\\_wellbeing](http://www.aut.ac.nz/students/student_services/health_counselling_and_wellbeing).

### Researcher Contact Details:

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