

## **Mediators Understanding of mediator neutrality in the context of self-represented parties.**

### **WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH**

This research is being conducted by Ms Svetlana German as part of her doctorate in law examining mediator neutrality in the mediation of civil disputes in NSW. My supervisors are Professor Jenni Millbank, Professor Katherine Biber and Dr Nicky McWilliam. Professor Katherine Biber can be contacted by email at [Katherine.Biber@uts.edu.au](mailto:Katherine.Biber@uts.edu.au) or by telephone on +61 2 95143935

### **WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?**

The research explores mediator understanding of key mediation concepts of neutrality and fairness and how they inform the practice of mediation. The research will also investigate the challenges and opportunities of mediation when parties in mediation do not have legal representation.

### **WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?**

You are invited to take part in this study. You have been chosen to participate in this research as you have been identified as a mediator experienced in conducting civil mediations in NSW. 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.

### **IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?**

To participate in the research, you will participate in a 40-60 minute semi-structured interview that will be audio recorded and transcribed.

You will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire to gather demographic data that may take approximately 5 minutes to complete and read a hypothetical legal scenario which may form a starting point to the discussion in the interview.

### **ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?**

There are no significant risks to participation, care will be taken to remove identifying details relation to the data collected and the research will not permit the identification in the research outputs arising from the research. All data collected will be de-identified both at the time of collection and again at the time of publication.

### **DO I GET PAID FOR PARTICIPATION?**

No.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?**

If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the University of Technology Sydney. Should you become uncomfortable at any stage or during the

interview you can terminate your involvement in the research without any prejudice to you. If you wish to withdraw from the study once the study has started, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason, by contacting Professor Katherine Biber.

If you withdraw from the study, the transcript and audio recording of your interview will be destroyed. However, it may not be possible to withdraw your data from the study results if these have already had your identifying details removed.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

By signing the consent form you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. All this information will be treated confidentially. All data collected will be de-identified and anonymised through careful management and the use of codes or pseudonyms. The electronic data will be stored on password-protected devices and computers. Any hard copies will be stored in locked filing cabinet in a locked office.

The data will only be able to be accessed by the researcher and the supervisors. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

The research will be published in the researcher's PhD thesis. The research may also be published or reported in conferences or in academic or professional articles. The thesis will be available through the University of Technology library and electronic repositories. Journal publications on the research finds will be available on through the libraries and databases that the journal is accessible through. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

We would like to store your information for future use in research projects that are an extension of this research project. In all instances your information will be treated confidentially.

### WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research that you think I or my supervisor can help you with, please feel free to contact Professor Katherine Biber by email at [Katherine.Biber@uts.edu.au](mailto:Katherine.Biber@uts.edu.au) or by telephone on +61 2 95143935. You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

**NOTE:** This study has been approved by the University of Technology Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee [UTS HREC]. If you have any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the conduct of this research, please contact the Ethics Secretariat on ph.: +61 2 9514 2478 or email:

[Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au](mailto:Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au)], and quote the UTS HREC reference number. Any matter raised will be treated confidentially, investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.