

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project title: INCOME SUPPORT IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

Name of Principal Investigator: Louise Humpage (Associate Professor in Sociology, University of Auckland).

An anonymous online survey is being conducted by Louise Humpage, in collaboration with Auckland Action Against Poverty, Child Poverty Action Group and FIRST Union. This research is not funded by any organisation but is being conducted collaboratively to inform policy decisions about income support levels and services.

Who should take part?

We invite you to complete the survey if you are:

- aged between 16 and 64 AND
- receive one of the following income support payments: Income Relief Payment (the new payment available to the 'newly jobless' for 3 months in the context of Covid-19); Job Seeker Support; Sole Parent Support; Supported Living Payment; Youth Payment; OR Young Parent Payment.

If you are aged under 16 or 65 and over and/or receive a different payment (eg. Student Allowance or New Zealand Superannuation), please do not complete the survey.

What is the survey about?

We want to know whether people on the new Income Relief Payment have similar or different experiences to people on existing main benefits. Our research asks:

- Does the higher level of payment available to the 'newly jobless' compared to existing main benefit payments make a significant difference in meeting basic essential costs? If so, in what ways?
- Do the 'newly jobless' have different experiences of engaging with employed-related institutions (such as Work and Income or other employment centres) when compared to the experiences of existing main benefit recipients? If so, in what ways?
- Has the temporary abolition of obligation/sanction regimes enabled mental and financial wellbeing for income support recipients? If so, in what ways?

What will be asked to do?

You will complete an anonymous survey using Qualtrics, a well-known online survey platform. It will include questions about your income and your household's income, as well as your experiences with Work and Income. You will also be asked basic demographic information. The survey should take around 10-15 minutes to complete.

You can conduct this survey in your own home or anywhere you can gain internet access; Auckland Action Against Poverty will also have a laptop in a quiet space available for anyone wishing to complete the survey at their offices at 120 Church Street, Onehunga, 10-3pm Tuesday-Friday.

What rights do you have?

Participation is voluntary. Even if you have been invited to take part by an organisation, you can choose not to complete the survey and that organisation will never know whether you participated or not.

If you do take part, the information you provide will be anonymous, meaning the researchers will not be able to identify who took part (not even their IP address or other electronic data) or who provided which information. As a result, you will not be able to withdraw information once you submitted the survey. By

reading the Participant Information Sheet and completing the survey, you are giving informed consent to participate in the research and will not be required to sign a consent form.

Although no one will know who provided what information in the survey, data will not be confidential because it will be combined with other data, analysed and the findings summarised in a report that Auckland Action Against Poverty, Child Poverty Action Group and First Union can use in their advocacy for all income support recipients. A participant can choose to provide contact details so they can be invited to take part in interviews later in the year; these contact details will be kept confidential by Louise Humpage on a password-protected computer at the University of Auckland and used only for the purposes of recruiting for related research.

What are the risks or benefits of taking part?

There is no risk of being identified as participating in this research because no one will be able to link the information provided with any particular person and no contact details will be collected as part of the survey. Even if you or your organisation invited someone to participate, you will not know whether they took up the invitation.

There is a small chance that you will feel some discomfort talking about your financial circumstances or experiences being unemployed. As such, a list of helpful services will be provided at the end of the survey.

There will be no koha or reimbursement for the time taken completing the survey but you will be contributing to important research that will inform policy debate prior to the 2020 General Election.

What will happen to your information?

Any information provided as part of the survey will be received and stored anonymously within the Qualtrics platform, meaning it cannot be traced back to the participant even by the researchers. It will then be analysed using Qualtrics or SPSS to identify similarities and differences between main benefit recipients and Income Relief Payment recipients, as well as general levels of income, indebtedness and material living conditions of both groups.

Data within Qualtrics is encrypted and stored anonymously in the Cloud but, once analysis is complete, it will be stored on a password-protected computer on the University of Auckland server and will only be viewed by the researchers. It will be deleted using secure deletion protocols after 6 years.

A findings report will be made available on the websites of Auckland Action Against Poverty, Child Poverty Action Group and First Union websites and circulated through organisation email lists so you can view the findings. Because the researchers cannot identify who completed the survey, they cannot send you a copy of this report directly. It is possible the data will also be used in conference presentations and academic publications in the future.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact:

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For any queries regarding ethical concerns you may contact the Chair, The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Research Strategy and Integrity, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711. Email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on for three years. Reference Number