Participant Information Sheet

Climate Change Adaptation and Australia's Community Sector Survey

About this research

The Just Adaptation and Climate Equity Collaboration (JACEC), led by Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places in partnership with RMIT University, is undertaking a national survey to better understand how climate change is affecting community sector organisations and the communities they support. Community organisations play an important role in supporting people and communities experiencing disadvantage. As climate-related impacts become more frequent and severe, these organisations are increasingly responding to changing community needs while also managing impacts on their own operations, workforce, infrastructure, and services.

This survey aims to provide an understanding of:

- How climate change is affecting community organisations
- The impacts on services, programs and communities
- The sector's preparedness and capacity to adapt
- Barriers to climate adaptation
- The funding, policy and support needed to strengthen community resilience and adaptation.

This project has been approved by the Jesuit Social Services Ethics Committee [Approval Number: JSS20261002].

Why is this research being conducted?

There is currently limited national information about how climate change is affecting Australia's community sector and the role the sector plays in supporting adaptation and resilience.

The findings will help build understanding of:

- The experiences of the community sector across different regions and organisations
- Emerging climate-related challenges and opportunities
- How governments and other decision-makers can better support community organisations and the communities they serve

The project is intended to provide a practical evidence base to inform policy discussions, advocacy, and future research. It is not intended to be a statistically representative study of the entire community sector.

Who can participate?
We are seeking responses from people working in community sector organisations across Australia, including:

- Community and social service organisations
- Community health and health promotion organisations
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- Advocacy organisations
- Community legal organisation
- Local government
- Environmental and climate organisations
- Other organisations working to support community wellbeing and the public interest

We encourage the survey to be completed by the person best placed to provide an organisation-wide perspective, such as a CEO, Executive Officer, Director, General Manager, senior manager or relevant program lead.

What does participation involve?
Participation involves completing a short online survey.

The survey asks about:

- Climate-related impacts experienced by your organisation
- Effects on services, operations and the communities you support
- Organisational preparedness and resilience
- Adaptation challenges and support needs
- Your views on the role of the community sector in climate adaptation.

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Is participation voluntary?
Yes.

Participation is entirely voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may stop completing the survey at any time before submitting your responses.

Once a survey response has been submitted, it will be possible to withdraw your data because responses are collected anonymously and cannot be linked back to individual participants.

What are the risks and benefits?
This research is considered low risk. Some participants may find it challenging to reflect on climate-related impacts affecting their organisation, staff, or communities. However, the survey does not ask for sensitive personal information and focuses on organisational experiences and perspectives.

While participants may not receive a direct benefit, the research will contribute to greater understanding of climate adaptation challenges facing the community sector and may help inform future policy, funding, and support initiatives.

How will my information be used?
Survey responses will be combined with those of other participants and analysed to identify trends, themes, and priorities.

Findings may be used in:

- A public-facing snapshot report
- Policy brief
- Presentations and stakeholder briefings
- Academic and non-academic publications
- Future research and advocacy activities.

Responses will be reported in aggregate form. Any quotations from open-text responses will be anonymised before publication unless explicit permission has been obtained.

Privacy and confidentiality
The survey is designed to be anonymous. Participants are not required to provide personal identifying information. We will ask for the name of your organisation solely to help identify and manage duplicate responses and to monitor the diversity of

organisations participating. Organisation names will not be reported publicly or attributed to survey responses. Survey data will be:

- Stored securely on password-protected systems
- Accessible only to authorised members of the research team
- Analysed and reported in de-identified form
- Managed in accordance with relevant institutional privacy, research and records management requirements
- We ask survey participants not to include personal information about themselves or others in open-ended responses.

Consent

Before commencing the survey, participants will be asked to confirm that they:

- Have read and understood the information in this information sheet
- Understand what participation involves
- Understand that participation is voluntary
- Understand how their information will be used
- Consent to participate in the research
- Consent to the use of their de-identified responses in research, reporting, advocacy and related project activities.

Only participants who provide consent will be able to proceed to the survey.

Further information

If you have any questions about the research project or survey, please contact the lead researchers:

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