

Participant Information Statement and Consent Form

Focus Group Discussions

HREC Project Number:	100909	
Short Name of Project:	Immunising against vaccine misinformation	
Full Name of Project:	Immunising against misinformation with an Arabic language vaccine myth busting game	
Principal Researcher:	Dr Jessica Kaufman	
Version Number:	2.0	Version Date: 11 October 2023

We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group discussion for the *Immunising Against Vaccine Misinformation* study. Thank you for considering participating in the study, and for taking the time to read this Participant Information Statement.

What is an Information Statement?

These pages tell you about the research study. They explain to you clearly and openly all the steps and procedures of the study. The information is to help you decide whether or not you would like to take part in the research. Please read this Information Statement carefully, and you may keep it for your records.

Before you decide if you would like to take part or not, you can ask us any questions you have about the project. You may want to talk about the project with your family and friends.

Important things you need to know:

- It is your choice whether or not you take part in the research. You do not have to agree if you do not want to.
- If you decide that you do not want to take part, it will not affect any current or future treatment or your relationship with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), nor any other organisations involved in the study.

1. What is the research project about?

Research suggests that fewer Arabic-speaking residents in Victoria are vaccinated against common preventable diseases and the community has higher rates of illness because of this. One of the reasons for low vaccination rates for a range of illnesses is that incorrect information and myths about vaccines are often spread in the community. This research project has three goals:

- I. To better understand the kind of incorrect information that is spread about all vaccines in Arabic-speaking communities, and how that information is spread.
- II. To support the Arabic-speaking communities in Victoria to adapt the “Cranky Uncle” online game (including characters, text, and context) for an Arabic-speaking Australian audience, which teaches how to know when information is not reliable. misinformation resilience game.
- III. Gather feedback on storyboard ideas for a new gaming module that would teach ways to talk with people about their vaccination questions and concerns.

This project will create a version of the Cranky Uncle game that is adapted for people from Arabic-speaking backgrounds. The game will be developed through Arabic-speaking community discussions and workshops, where community members will detail the changes needed to make the game relevant to the community.

2. Why am I being asked to take part?

We are inviting you to take part in this study because you are a member of the Arabic-speaking community in Victoria and aged 16+. The project is about teaching people to recognise and refute vaccine misinformation, and we hope that participants will be supportive of that goal. The focus groups will be respectful discussions focused on the aims and goals of the project.

3. What does participating involve?

If you provide consent, we will ask you to take part in an online focus group discussion via Zoom. We will discuss vaccine myths, your experiences and attitudes towards a range of vaccines, and how vaccine myths can be challenged (i.e., it will address the first aim of the study).

This focus group will include 3-6 people aged 16 years and over, who speak Arabic. The discussions may be held in Arabic, English or another language (e.g., Chaldean). Participants will be able to indicate their language needs when they register their interest to participate. Interpreters will be present, as required. Each session will last approximately 1 hour, and it will be organised at a time that suits everyone. The sessions will be audio recorded and transcribed into English. The transcripts will not record identifying information, such as names.

You can choose not to answer any questions, and/or leave the focus group whenever you choose with no negative consequences and without giving any reason.

4. How can I become a participant?

If you would like to take part in the research project, please follow these steps:

- 1) If you haven't already done so, click on this link <LINK> to complete the online registration form.
- 2) Someone from our team will then get in touch with you to discuss the project and answer any questions you have. They will send you a link to an online consent form.
- 3) We will schedule a suitable time for you to participate, and email to you a calendar invitation with a Zoom link. We will also send you a copy of the consent form to keep.

5. How will the focus group session be recorded?

If you take part in the focus group, the sessions will be recorded using the online platform's recording function. The sessions will be recorded on stored securely on the MCRI network and databases. The audio-recordings will be transcribed by an MCRI-trusted Australian professional transcription service. This means we will make a full written copy of the recording. The transcription service will delete the audio and text files from their records when completed. The transcripts will not record identifying information, such as names. The audio files will be deleted from our records when analysis is completed.

6. What will be done to make sure our information is confidential?

In this study we will collect and use personal information about you for research purposes. The information in this study will be deidentified, meaning that we will remove identifying details such as your name. You will not be able to withdraw the information you give us once it is deidentified. All your data will be stored securely on the MCRI network and databases. Any information we collect that can identify you will be treated as confidential and will be used only in this project. We can pass on the information only with your permission, except as required by law.

Authorised representatives from the following organizations may review your non-identifiable research data for the purpose of monitoring or managing the conduct of this study:

- The research team involved with this project.
- The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee.

These groups may need to inspect and/or copy our research records for data analysis. They may also want to check that study procedures are followed correctly. We will keep your information at least 5 years, or until the youngest participant turns 25 years old. After this period, we will destroy your information.

Twelve months following completion of this study, we might share the data from this study with other researchers to conduct further analyses if they request it. Any other researcher using this study data will be unable to identify you. The data analysis will need to be approved by a research ethics committee before it is shared.

At the end of the research project, we may present the results at conferences. We may also publish the results in medical journals. We will do this in a way that protects the privacy of every participant.

We will ask that you and the other participants keep the group discussions private. In other words, you and the other participants should not share anything that is said in the group discussions. However, we cannot guarantee that everyone will keep these discussions private. You should keep this in mind when you share things with the group.

7. What are the possible risks, side effects, discomforts and/or inconveniences?

This project may not directly benefit you. One possible inconvenience of participating in this study is the time required. A gift voucher will be provided to thank you for your time. However, we hope to use the information we get from this research to improve our understandings of how misinformation is spread, and in turn enhance community resilience to vaccine misinformation through an evidence-based gaming app, Cranky Uncle.

There are no other direct benefits for taking part in this research. There are no risks or harms associated with drugs, procedures, or devices in this study. We will ask you about thoughts and knowledge and experience with vaccine misinformation. You may experience some discomfort during discussions about health. We have tried to make sure that the focus group questions are sensitive and appropriate. However, if you are worried by any of the questions, you do not need to answer them.

If you experience discomfort and would like information or support, we recommend contacting your primary healthcare provider, community supports, the National Immunisation Information Line on 1800 671 811 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

8. Who is running the project?

This project is led by Dr Jessica Kaufman who is a vaccine researcher in the Vaccine Uptake Group at the MCRI. Under the leadership of Prof Danchin, the Vaccine Uptake Group conducts social science research about public health communication, people's health behaviours, vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

9. Can the research team financially benefit from the Cranky Uncle gaming app?

No, there are no profits made from the game. The Cranky Uncle gaming app will be free to download and play and does not include any in-game purchases.

10. Who is funding this research project?

This research project is being funded by the Victorian Department of Health.

11. Do I need to take part in this research project?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Your decision to participate or not in any aspect of this study will have no impact on the health care that you receive, if any is provided.

12. Can I withdraw from the project?

If you give your consent and later change your mind, that's ok. You can stop taking part in the project at any time, including during the focus group discussion. If you decide to stop participating in the study, we would like to ask you for your general reason for doing so, however, you do not have to share this information if you do not want to. If you leave the project, we will use any information already collected unless you tell us not to. If the information already collected has been deidentified, we will not be able to remove this information from our study.

13. Will I be reimbursed for my time or expenses?

You will receive a digital \$25 gift card for participating in the online focus group discussion.

14. Will I be informed of the results when the research project is finished?

At the end of the project, we will send a link to your email address. This link will take you to a summary of the project results. The summary will be about the whole group of participants who took part in the project. We will not send you individual results.

15. Who should I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about the project, you can contact Dr Sophia Vasiliadis, who is a Senior Research Officer, coordinating the Immunising Against Vaccine Misinformation study on 9936 6035 or email sophia.vasiliadis@mcri.edu.au.

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the **Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee** in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures [HREC 100909]. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. You can contact the Director of Research Operations at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne if you:

- have any concerns or complaints about the project
- are worried about your rights as a research participant
- would like to speak to someone independent of the project.

The Director can be contacted by telephone on (03) 9345 5044.

Focus Group Participant Consent Form

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Short Name of Project:	Immunising Against Misinformation	
Full Name of Project:	Immunising against misinformation with an Arabic language vaccine myth busting game	
Principal Researcher:	Dr Jessica Kaufman	
Version Number:	1.0	Version Date: 25 September 2023

- I have read this information statement and I understand its contents.
- I understand what I have to do to be involved in this project.
- I understand the risks I could face because of my involvement in this project.
- I voluntarily consent to take part in this research project.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions about the project and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.
- I understand that this project has been approved by The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee. I understand that the project is required to be carried out in line with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007).
- I understand I will receive a copy of this Information Statement and Consent Form.

I consent to take part in the Immunising Against Misinformation focus group.

Participant Name

Participant Signature

Date

Optional consent: Future research

If you are happy to be invited to participate in future research projects, please provide your consent below. This does not mean you have to take part in any future projects.

<input type="checkbox"/> I do	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not	Consent to be contacted about future research projects related to vaccines or misinformation.
If you do consent, please provide your preferred email address: _____		