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### **Information Letter to Participants**

**Project title: The role of love and sex in romantic relationships.**

**Investigators: Dr Lisa Eisen**

**Student Researcher: Karen Walker**

**Course: Masters in Clinical Psychology**

Dear Participant,

Thank you for enquiring into this research project into love and sex.

The current study is an investigation into the role of perceptions of love and sex on romantic relationships. If you are 18 years of age or older, and are currently involved in either a heterosexual or homosexual relationship, the researchers invite you to participate in this study. This research project is being supervised by Dr. Lisa Eisen who is a Lecturer in the School of Psychology at Australian Catholic University, and a registered psychologist.

As part of their university studies, students undertaking postgraduate studies are required to complete an empirical research thesis. Whilst the current research is being conducted under the auspices of the Australian Catholic University we are not affiliated with any particular religion.

If you decide to proceed and participate in this study you and your partner will be asked to anonymously, and separately, complete a questionnaire online that will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You will be asked to answer a number of general questions regarding your sexual orientation, age, gender, cultural background and religion. These questions enable the researchers to better understand the sample involved in the research. You will also be asked to answer a number of questions that

are rated on varying scales. Whilst some of the provided response options may not exactly describe your feeling, thoughts, or situation please choose the one closest to what you feel is the best response. You should answer each question as honestly as you can; typically your first reaction is the best choice. There are no correct or incorrect responses.

Please note that there is no deception or hidden purpose to any of the questions. It is important for you to remember that participation in this study is voluntary and it is your right to refuse to participate; however, please note that since your data is anonymous, it cannot be withdrawn once submitted. Completing and submitting your questionnaire implies that you have given full and informed consent to be part of this research. If, as a result of completing this questionnaire you experience undue distress please contact the research supervisor, Dr Cecelia Winkelman on 03 9953 3112.

The information provided by you will be pooled with other participants in the study and stored in a strictly confidential manner in a locked, secure office at Australian Catholic University Fitzroy Campus. This data will be stored for a period 5 years and then destroyed. The results of this data will be published in the student's thesis and may appear in publications, be included in a thesis or report, or presented at a scientific conference; however, since all information is anonymous no person's information will be personally identifiable.

The data from this study will be used to further develop an understanding of the contribution of love and sex to romantic relationships.

This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Australian Catholic University.

In the event that you have any complaints or concerns about the manner in which this research is being conducted, or the way you have been treated, or if you have a query that the Primary Investigator or Student Researcher has not been able to satisfy, you may write to the Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee at the following address:

The Chair, HREC,  
C/o Research Services  
Australian Catholic University

Melbourne Campus  
Locked Bag 4115  
Fitzroy, VIC, 3065  
Telephone: 03 9953 3158  
Fax: 03 9953 3315

Any complaints or concerns will be strictly confidential. You will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Lisa Eisen on 03 9953 3119.

Researchers:  
Supervisor: Dr. Lisa Eisen  
Student Researcher; Karen Walker.

**Many thanks for your time on this project.**