



## **Dressing the Post-Surgical Body: An examination of New Zealand women's experience, perceptions and body image with reconstructive surgery and bra fit**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR ANONYMOUS SURVEY**

Please read this information before deciding whether to take part in this research. If you decide to participate, thank you. If you decide not to participate, thank you for considering this request.

#### **Who am I?**

My name is Aida Amoozegar Montero and I am a Doctoral student in Sociology at Victoria University of Wellington. This research project is work towards my PhD dissertation.

#### **What is the aim of the project?**

This project aims to explore how women in NZ who have had mastectomies and breast reconstructive surgery experience their breasts, bras, femininity and body image. I will be specifically looking at the meaning of bras and breasts and the role they play in pre and post- surgical lives. Your participation is critical to support this research by providing insight, understanding and perspective on this subject matter. Your lived experience will provide the knowledge to expand current perspectives and inform new meaning.

This survey will be the first survey in New Zealand to investigate the meaning of bras for women who have undergone a mastectomy and breast reconstructive surgery.

#### **How can you help?**

You have been invited to participate because you are a female living in New Zealand who has had a mastectomy and breast reconstructive surgery. If you agree to take part, you will complete a survey. The survey will ask you questions about breasts, bras, femininity and body image. **The survey will take you 8-10 minutes to complete.**

#### **What will happen to the information you give?**

**This research is anonymous.** This means that nobody, including the researchers will be aware of your identity. By answering it, you are giving consent for us to use your responses

in this research. Your answers will remain completely anonymous and unidentifiable. Once you submit the survey, it will be impossible to retract your answer. Please do not include any personal identifiable information in your responses.

Personal details will be collected only for those who have agreed to participate in an interview. All personal details will be received separately from the survey data and will be held in confidence. This ensures that your answers to the survey questions will not be linked to your identity.

### **What will the project produce?**

The information from my research will be used in PhD dissertation and academic publications and conferences. The information from this interview will also be used in another VUW PhD dissertation (Ethics application #0000027449).

### **If you have any questions or problems, who can you contact?**

If you have any questions, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact my supervisor or me.

### **Participating in this anonymous survey constitutes consent.**

#### **Student:**

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#### **Supervisor:**

Name: Rhonda Shaw

Role: Associate Professor

School: SACS

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### **Human Ethics Committee information**

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Victoria University of Wellington HEC Convenor: Associate Professor Judith Loveridge. Email [hec@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hec@vuw.ac.nz) or telephone +64-4-463 6028.

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee, #0000028283.