

**Listening to True Crime: A Diary Study of Women's Experiences
Listening to Australian True Crime Podcasts**

QUT Ethics Approval Number 5381

Research team

Chief Investigator: Dr Laura Vitis
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Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is being undertaken as part of a study for Dr Laura Vitis from QUT. The purpose of this diary project is to investigate women's experiences of listening to Australian true crime podcasts focused on violence against women.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you are a woman aged 18 years or older who has listened to a true crime podcast within the past five years.

What does participation involve?

Participation involves listening to 8 Australian true crime podcast episodes focused on violence against women then writing or recording (audio or video) diary entries after listening to each episode. These episodes will focus on cases involving fatal violence, domestic violence and sexual violence and are:

- Shandee's Story, [Episode 1](#)
- Shandee's Story, [Episode 2](#)
- Shandee's Story, [Episode 3](#)
- Shandee's Story, [Episode 4](#)
- Casefile, [Case 65 Alison Baden Clay](#)
- Bad Apple Podcast, [Episode 5 Mr Cruel](#)
- True Crime Conversations, [Anita Cobby](#)
- Life and Crimes with Andrew Rule, [The Claremont Case](#)

First Interview: Prior to completing the diary, you will participate in an audio recorded interview held at QUT, via zoom or other agreed location that will take approximately one hour of your time. In this interview you will be provided with a set of guidelines for completing the diary. If you have listened to these episodes, an alternative will be offered. Questions will include:

- Which true crime podcasts have you listened to?
- When do you usually listen to these podcasts?

Diary Entries: You will then listen to the podcast episodes and complete your diary entries and send them to the researcher. Your diary entries can be written, audio recorded or video recorded, this is up to you. Their length is also up to you. In these diaries you will be asked to reflect on:

- How you felt while listening to the episode
 - Which aspects of the story you found most affecting
 - Whether this account made you think about your own safety
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Second Interview: After completing your diary entries you will be asked to complete a final audio recorded interview held at QUT, via zoom or other agreed location that will take approximately one hour of your time. Questions will include:

- Reflect on your diary entries, what did you learn about your experiences listening to true crime podcasts

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw anytime during the interview or diaries. If you withdraw within one month of your second interview, on request any information already obtained that can be linked to you will be destroyed. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT. You will be able to review a transcript of your responses after the interview.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of the research, however, may benefit a better understanding of the role that true crime plays in the lives of Australian women and the Australian media landscape. You will be able to see a brief summary of the outcomes of the study by looking on the research project website ([Click here](#)).

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are some risks associated with your participation in this research project. Firstly, participation in this project will require some of your time. To participate, you will need to complete diary entries after listening to 8 podcast episodes (ranging from 40-90mins) and participate in two interviews. To reduce the impact on your time you can complete your diary entries in any way that is easiest for you, via email, word document, audio or video recording. It is also up to you how much you write or record. You can also listen to the podcasts and complete the entries whenever it is convenient for you.

Secondly, the podcasts you will be listening to will involve accounts of violence against women, including fatal, sexual and or domestic violence. These podcasts have been selected because they reflect the common Australian true crime narratives. Listening to these narratives may be distressing. In order to address this potential for distress, a safety protocol will be in place. You will be able to review the episodes before participating, you will be able to review the interview questions and withdraw at any time during the project. Additionally, there will be opportunities to debrief with the chief investigator and negotiate consent throughout the project.

Additionally, QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. Additionally, if the content of these podcasts raises any questions or concerns for you, you can contact 1800 RESPECT (**1800 773 732**) The 24/7 National Sexual Assault, Family & Domestic Violence Counselling Line for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault. www.1800respect.org.au

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Your diary entries and interview transcripts will be transcribed. Once transcribed they are de-identified and coded i.e. it will be possible to re-identify you. A re-identifying code stored separately to personal information (e.g. name, address), will only be accessible to the Chief Investigator, and the code plus identifying information including video and audio recordings will be destroyed after 5 years.

Any personal information that could potentially identify you will be removed from the diary and interview transcripts. Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form to confirm your agreement to participate.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information please contact the Chief Investigator:

Dr Laura Vitis

laura.vitis@qut.edu.au

07 3138 5123

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.