

Organisational Information Statement

Project Title: *Public transport as a care infrastructure for migrants in Western Sydney*

Project Summary:

Your organisation is invited to support this research project, which is being conducted by researchers from the Centre for Western Sydney at Western Sydney University.

The study explores how migrants perceive and experience public transport in Western Sydney. It seeks to understand individuals' attitudes about migration and life in Australia, their public transport use and travel patterns, and their experiences with public transport reliability, accessibility, mobility, safety, affordability, and other issues.

The findings will help improve our understanding about how vulnerable groups in Western Sydney experience public transport access and mobility, which be used to develop recommendations for more inclusive public transport systems, better transport infrastructure, and improved mobility for Western Sydney communities.

How is the study being paid for?

This project is funded through the Fulbright/Western Sydney University Scholarship in the Arts, Environment, and Public Health. The mission of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission is to promote educational and cultural exchange between Australia and the United States (U.S.), to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen relations between the two countries. The Commission facilitates this through implementation of the Fulbright Scholarship Program and other scholarships and exchanges.

The Commission offers Scholarships to Australian and American citizens across all career stages. Scholars take part in a bi-lateral academic and cultural exchange, pursuing research or study at a U.S.-based or an Australian-based institution, experiencing life in the Host Country, and bringing back knowledge and experience to share with their own communities.

Funding from this grant covers the research activities for this project, including community engagement, survey development, participant interviews and walk alongs, and analysis. The Program does not have any role in how the research is conducted, how participants are selected, or how results are interpreted or reported. All aspects of the study are carried out independently by the research team at Western Sydney University.

What will I be asked to do?

Your organisation is invited to assist the research team with participant recruitment under Western Sydney University's Distributor Model – A Conduit to Potential Participants.

Under this model, your organisation's role is to act solely as a conduit by sharing information about the study with potential participants within your network. Your organisation will not disclose any

personal details or contact information of members or clients to the researchers.

If your organisation agrees to participate, you will:

- Distribute the study flyer, email, or project summary (provided by the researchers) to your members, clients, or networks.
- Share this information via your preferred communication channels, such as email lists, newsletters, social media, or community noticeboards.
- Direct interested individuals to contact the research team directly using the contact details provided.
- Once individuals contact the researchers, the research team will provide further information, confirm eligibility, and invite them to participate in a survey, interview, or focus group.
- We are aiming to include migrant individuals from across Western Sydney, representing diverse communities and levels of digital access.

How much of my time will I need to give?

Obtaining organisational consent will require an administrative process involving a discussion with other members. Following this, time will be spent distributing the flyer, information statement or project description to your members or networks.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

By supporting this study, your organisation will be contributing to research that promotes transport equity and community safety, accessibility, and mobility for migrants in Western Sydney.

The outcomes of this research will:

- Build a clearer picture of public transport access and perceptions of mobility for migrants in Western Sydney.
- Support local governments and community organisations to improve transport policy and infrastructure recommendations.
- Strengthen future research and policy to make public transport more accessible for everyone, especially for vulnerable, disadvantaged groups.

Your organisation will receive a summary of the project findings once the report is complete, and the full report will be made publicly available through the Centre for Western Sydney.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

We do not anticipate any risks to your organisation. Your organisation's participation is limited to sharing information with your networks, and you will not be required to collect or share any personal data.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

The results of this research will contribute to a publicly available report published by the Centre for Western Sydney at Western Sydney University. The report will outline findings from the survey, interviews, and walk alongs conducted with migrant individuals, community organisations, and professionals in Western Sydney. It will explore patterns of travel by public transport, challenges with transport access and mobility, and strategies for improving transport infrastructure and planning.

The findings may also be presented in:

- Academic journals and conference presentations, where results will be discussed in a broader research context.
- Community engagement materials, such as newsletters, factsheets, or plain-English summaries distributed to participating organisations and community partners.
- Policy briefs and advocacy materials shared with local councils, emergency services, and government departments to support evidence-based improvements in disaster communication.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. Please note that minimum retention period for data collection is five years post-publication. The data and information you have provided will be securely disposed of.

All data gathered (including organisational consent forms) will be treated confidentially. Only the research team will have access to personally identifiable data collected. Consent will be stored in secure drives hosted by the University of Western Sydney. The anonymity of the data will follow the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2023>). Furthermore, the information will be electronically shared among researchers using OneDrive, which is a secure platform for data sharing approved and standardised among Western Sydney University staff.

The methods of storage, access and disposal of data are clarified in the given protocols of Western Sydney University. The researchers are bound by strict confidentiality rules, and they do not disclose confidential information acquired during their research. Researchers will comply with Western Sydney University privacy policies (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/about_uws/leadership/governance/privacy_at_western_sydney_university).

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary. Your organisation may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason. If your organisation withdraws, no further recruitment activity will be requested or undertaken, and all related correspondence and consent materials will be deleted from the project records. Withdrawal will not affect your organisation's relationship with Western

Sydney University or any project partners.

What do you need to do to participate?

Please review this Information Statement carefully and make sure your organisation understands its contents.

If your organisation agrees to act as a recruitment partner under the Distributor Model, please complete and sign the attached Organisational Consent Form and return it via email with the subject line: "Consent to Act as Recruitment Partner – Transport for Migrants Project."

What if I require further information?

Please contact Ms. Maria Correa should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether to participate.

Privacy Notice

Western Sydney University staff and students conduct research that may require the collection of personal and/or health information from research participants.

The University's Privacy Policy and Privacy Management Plan set out how the University collects, holds, uses and discloses personal or health information. Further details about the use and disclosure of this information can be found on the [Privacy at Western Sydney webpage](#).

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may email the Ethics Committee through Research Services: humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep, and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H17206.