

# TRANS WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES OF PARTICIPATING IN INSIDER RESEARCH: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH APPROACHES

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## **Introduction:**

There is little research on population-specific methodologies for conducting research with transgender people. There is even less data on proceedings or impacts of insider research in the area. Nonetheless, transgender people, and transgender women in particular, are a vulnerable population with specific needs. In other areas, such as Indigenous research, there is a growing body of knowledge on the efficacy and positive significance of peer-led research. Therefore, it is important to consider the impact that trans-led research may have on transgender research participants, particularly when being interviewed about their experiences as a gender diverse person

## **Methods:**

Qualitative interviews were conducted with 6 transgender women who had participated in a previous study conducted by the presenter. They were interviewed about their experience of the interview itself, the lead-up and the process undertaken following the interview period, as well as their perception of peer-led transgender research more broadly

## **Results:**

Participants described several positive impacts of being interviewed by a peer. These included increases in likelihood of positive response to recruitment, levels of trust and resulting rapport-building, and an increased confidence in the appropriateness of any publication of their data. Participants also indicated aspects of the research which increased trust and comfort, including follow-up and early disclosure of the researcher's trans status

## **Conclusion:**

As research on the transgender population increases, it is important to consider methods of conducting research which empower and protect participants. It is also vital to centre transgender researchers wherever possible, to build rapport, increase accountability, and provide insight into the topic which cisgender researchers may not have.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement: See example below:**

*The presenters recognise the wonderful contributions of their participants, and acknowledge the complexity of conducting insider research within this area. Nonetheless, there were no conflicts of interest during the study, and insider research bias was methodologically addressed throughout.*