Dear Sir/Madam,

You are invited to take part in a jury sentencing research project being undertaken by Professor Kate Warner (University of Tasmania Ph: 62262067; email: kate.warner@utas.edu.au), Associate Professor Julia Davis and Dr David Plater (University of South Australia; julia.davis@unisa.edu.au; david.plater@unisa.edu.au), Dr Lorana Bartels (University of Canberra lorana.bartels@canberra.edu.au), Professor Geraldine Mackenzie (Bond University, Queensland gmackenz@bond.edu.au); Professor George Zdenkowski (who is an Acting Magistrate based in New South Wales george.zdenkowski@gmail.com) and Dr Lynne Roberts (Curtin University, Western Australia lynne.roberts@curtin.edu.au).

This research is funded under the Linkage Grants Scheme by the Australian Research Council. The Linkage Partners include the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council, the Justice Department (Tasmania), the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration and the ACT Victims of Crime Commissioner.

What is the purpose of this research?
To ascertain informed public attitudes to sentences imposed by the court in relation to

- sentencing severity in sex offence cases;
- the relative severity of offence types; and
- the relevance of aggravating and mitigating factors in the sentencing of offenders.

What do I have to do?
Jurors are being asked to take part because they will have heard all the evidence in the case and thus are in a position to comment on sentences imposed by courts. We are inviting jurors to participate from trials where the defendant has been convicted of a sex crime or the crime of grievous bodily harm. In addition, we are inviting members of the public who have been summoned for jury duty but have not been empanelled on a jury (referred to as the control group) to complete the same survey as jurors. We would like to see if the views of jurors and controls differ in any important ways with respect to the purpose of the research as stated above. The research will involve three separate stages.

- **Stage 1** asks you to sign a consent form, to read a brief vignette titled ‘Section A: The Case’ which will describe a case involving either a sex offence or a crime of grievous bodily harm based on a real criminal case and to answer some short questions on the attached form entitled “Jury Sentencing Survey 1 (Controls)”.

- **Stage 2** asks you to complete Survey 2 where you can review your sentence after you have read some sentencing information including the judge’s sentencing comments for the real case you were asked to read. It will also ask you some related questions about the criminal justice system.

- **Stage 3** asks you to respond to a final short survey (Survey 3) approximately 6 months after you have completed Survey 2.

NOTE: If you sign the consent form at Stage 1 you are not obliged to continue with the other stages of the study. If you do not agree to take part in Stage 2 you may get a copy of your consent form by contacting Professor Kate Warner.

Possible Benefit of the Study
If you complete Survey 1 and agree to participate in Stage 2, you will be sent the judge’s sentence and reasons for sentence in the real case you were asked to read. The wider community will benefit by policy makers having access to the informed public opinion of jurors.

Frequently Asked Questions
**Will the survey be anonymous?**
Although we need your name and address in order to send you the material for Stages 2 and 3, the published results will not identify any participant.

**How will you ensure my responses remain confidential?**
Any material with your name (such as Survey 1 and the consent form) will remain in a locked cabinet at the University of Tasmania for 5 years after completion of the final reports and publications for...
the project. Only the researchers involved with this project will have access to this information. After the 5 years has passed, this data will be destroyed.

**Do I have to take part in the research?**

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. Obviously the more jurors who take part, the better the results.

**Can I change my mind during or after the study?**

You are free to withdraw from the study at any time and you can do so without providing an explanation.

**What If I become distressed as a result of reading the details of the offence?**

If you are at all concerned that you may find any details of the real case distressing, it may be beneficial for you to discuss your participation in this study with your general practitioner, another health professional you may see, a trusted family member or a personal friend prior to participating. Alternatively, we have provided below the details of some anonymous counseling services;

- **LifeLine Australia** has a 24 hours crisis telephone service (phone 13 11 14) as well as an online chat service between the hours of 8pm to 4am 7 days a week and this service can be accessed via www.lifeline.org.au/Find-Help/Online-Services/crisis-chat
- **BeyondBlue** (1300 22 4636) has a 24 hour helpline 7 days per week as well as an online chat service between the hours of 4pm to 10pm 7 days per week which can be accessed via www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/get-immediate-support
- **SANE Australia** (1800 18 7263) have a national info/help line that is available from 9am to 5pm weekdays.

**Who can I contact if I have any questions?**

Professor Warner: Ph 62262067; email: kate.warner@utas.edu.au
Associate Professor Julia Davis: email: julia.davis@unisa.edu.au

**Who can I contact if I have any complaints?**

Any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the research should be directed to the University of Tasmania’s Ethics Executive Officer (Tel: 03 62267479, Email: human.ethics@utas.edu.au). Please quote Ethics Reference No H13681.

**How can I find out the results of this research?**

Publication details about the research will be provided on the Law Faculty’s website at www.utas.edu.au/law/jury-study. We will provide a progress report at the end of 2014. The final results of the project will not be published until mid/late 2016. Abstracts of published papers will be placed on the website with links to a .pdf of each paper.

We would very much appreciate your assistance with this project.

Yours sincerely

Professor Kate Warner
(on behalf of the research team)