

On-demand grant 2021/22

On Demand Report

Application OD000052021_22 From Dr Hafsa Ahmed

Form Submitted 12 Aug 2022, 11:47pm NZST

Instructions

Kia ora. The questions below are to help InternetNZ understand the triumphs and challenges you have faced to date in your mahi we have supported.

We want to celebrate your successes and understand the obstacles you have encountered so far. This will help us all to learn what we could do differently next time.

This form will be placed on our website for transparency.

Please complete and submit this form no later than the date stipulated in your funding agreement. Should you be unable to meet the deadline, contact us to arrange an alternative date, by emailing funding@internetnz.net.nz. You may not be eligible to apply for further grants from InternetNZ if this is not submitted. The completion of this form should be overseen by someone with an intimate knowledge of the funded mahi.

Final project report

*** indicates a required field**

Project title *

From hate to hurt - Impact of online hate

Provide a short summary of the work that was completed as part of this project / research. *

Social media and its use dominate in our lives as we use these platforms to construct our virtual identities, develop friendships and spread hate. Cyber hate is real and increasing as it is now easier than ever before to espouse a hateful message and reach audiences across the world in a matter of seconds. This tsunami of hate is causing offence, upset and pain to people across countries. In this project, we wanted to explore how online hate has impacted lives of individuals. We also wanted to capture details of why online hate has increased while examining the debate around reform of the hate speech laws. We interviewed five individuals from different backgrounds to delve deeper into this topic. As a consequence, we created five 10 minute video interviews which are available on our YouTube channel and subsequently will be available on our website.

Describe the "who, what, where and when" of your initiative.

Is your mahi for this project complete? *

Yes No

If your initiative is still in progress, pick "no"

Start Date

10/01/2022

Must be a date.

Finish Date

31/07/2022

Must be a date.

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When do you anticipate that your project / research will be completed?

30/12/2023

Must be a date.

Leave blank if this is an ongoing initiative or if finish date is unknown.

Are there any areas where you need further support to complete this mahi?

Since we applied for the funding to InternetNZ, our project has evolved in scope. The work we have completed through this funding falls within the scope of our bigger project for which we are currently seeking funding which includes costs for our videographer, project manager, researcher, website designer, resource developer and travel. We would appreciate if we can have an opportunity to secure funding from InternetNZ to support our bigger project - details included below.

The project is titled 'Community of Strangers' and we have a website registered. Our project 'Community of Strangers' seeks to explore the underpinnings of both bias and belonging within our species by providing an understanding of our evolutionary pre-disposition to favour those most similar to us. We seek to provide a deeper understanding as well as possible solutions which might help mitigate the causes of radicalisation and hate. By using the latest neuroscience and psychology, delving into the needs of human behaviour, we will explain the foundations of our shared humanity and the common search for belonging including in-group bias and the precursors to prejudice and hate.

Social cohesion is a policy goal in Aotearoa, New Zealand. But what does that mean? How do we create a society founded on belonging, participation, inclusion, recognition and legitimacy? Part of the answer is in understanding the causes of isolation, exclusion, non-involvement, rejection and illegitimacy. Indifference and discrimination versus acceptance and belonging - this series will explore these stark juxtapositions looking at the basic drivers that pull us together and push us apart. Through a journalistic approach, by understanding these competing tensions we hope to reveal a common struggle that lies at the heart of what it means to be human. We will base this in evidence and expertise - hence, in this project, we will also examine the science behind the attitudes that shape our relations with others our values, beliefs and societal systems.

What are the outcomes of this project? *

A summary of the five videos created from the project.

- Christchurch Councillor Sara Templeton is calling for a streamlined process where the courts and social media companies can intervene quickly to stamp out abuse. A victim of online harassment herself, she says the current system is so complex it's not fit for purpose.
- Canterbury University Sociologist, Mike Grimshaw, says white supremacy is the issue of most immediate concern here in New Zealand. While only a tiny proportion of internet users share extremist views, their posts lead others towards dangerous silos of disinformation and hate.
- David Bromell, the author of *Regulating Free Speech in a Digital Age*, argues that legislation and censorship won't solve the problem of hate speech and harm. Instead, he promotes the idea of counter speech as a way to combat the haters.
- Canterbury Law Professor Ursula Cheer, says she has strong concerns about any restrictions on free speech even when used sparingly as a tool to mitigate hate. Hate speech laws present a unique dilemma for those determined to protect democracy and our ability to freely voice personal opinions, obnoxious or not.
- Senior Policy Advisor James Ting Edwards at InternetNZ says effective responses are needed to combat the harms people experience online. InternetNZ is proposing the introduction of a new way of measuring that harm with dangerous speech guidelines that would quantify the risk to vulnerable groups.

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Describe major achievements or outcomes of the project in terms of benefits for participants and/or others.

Who have you worked with to make this project happen?

In addition to the interviewees, the project team consisted of a videographer, a researcher, a website designer and a project manager. To keep costs within budget, we got the project logo designed via Fiverr. We received support from the Human Rights Commission and Plains FM who we anticipate will promote the project's outputs.

For example, staff, volunteers, other organisations or support that has been instrumental in this mahi.

Describe any changes from the original proposal and the reason the changes were required.

Our original project wanted to capture five stories of individuals who were impacted by online hate. However, as we began work on the project we realised the complexity and risks of getting anyone to share their story. We were able to recruit participants but after initial pre-meetings we determined that since they were already receiving hate online, sharing of their stories could create potentials of exposing them to more hate. Hence, we approached Internet NZ in March 2022 with a change of scope.

We may use this information to help inform others undertaking similar work.

What did you or your team/organisation learn as a result of doing this project? *

Through the filming of various interviews, we could identify reasons of bias/hate online. We also realised the challenges of getting access to individuals who would be willing to appear on video for an interview.

While the work presented here is linked to online hate and hate speech laws, these interviews are only part of a bigger project - undertaking these interviews have provided us an opportunity to clarify scope for our bigger project Community of Strangers.

Describe some areas for improvement and/or reasons for success and/or challenges. How will the things you learnt inform future projects?

How will you share the outcomes and lessons from this mahi? *

A mix of social media platforms to promote the project - YouTube and Facebook/Instagram.

We also anticipate conducting public lectures with our interviewees if we successful in securing further funding for the Community of Strangers project.

What channels/mediums were used?

Which population group/s were affected by this project or program? *

Universal (no particular population)

Please choose only the group/s that were at the very core of this project/program.

Did you reach the audience you intended? *

As we are still in the process of releasing the videos through different platform. We anticipate we will reach around 5000 people in the next three weeks through these videos. Reflect on who you set out to help, and whether this changed at all through the course of the project.

What has the feedback been to date? *

Initial reviews of the project have been positive. Promos of the videos were shared at the grantee hui on 4 August 2022.

Consider whether you have permission before quoting any specific piece of feedback.

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We'd love to see some visual and/or audio representations of your work. Please share it below.

Upload files:

No files have been uploaded

and/or

Provide web link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjV43XRNSIJuKB7fGhNQrhk0J11GmEsWd>

Must be a URL

and/or

Provide additional details:

The link shared gives access to the promos of the interviews. Over the next two weeks we will release the full videos which will also be available on the Community of Strangers YouTube Channel.

Please include captions, if relevant

Can we use your media content in our communications? *

Yes No Please contact us first
e.g. in our annual report

Financial report

*** indicates a required field**

Project income and expenditure

Please provide details of any project income (funds received) and project expenditure (funds spent) to date.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income Description	Income type	Confirmed funding?	Income amount (\$)	Notes
Internet NZ	Other income	Confirmed *	\$10,000.00	Funding from Internet NZ

Expenditure description	Expenditure type	Expenditure amount (\$)	Notes

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Professional videographer	Salaries and wages	\$7,446.25	recording stories in 4k and HD to broadcast standards; in 10 bit 422 colour (Editing and distribution)
Researcher & website designer	Project and production	\$500.00	Website design from scratch
Administrative costs	Administrative and infrastructure	\$219.73	Project meetings and website domain registration
Project identity design	Administrative and infrastructure	\$450.70	Logo design and animation
Koha for interviewees	Other expenditure	\$250.00	\$50 Prezzy cards each interviewee
Project management	Project and production	\$1,200.00	80 hours so far

Income and Expenditure Totals

Total income amount

\$10,000.00

This number/amount is calculated.

Total expenditure amount

\$10,066.68

This number/amount is calculated.

Income - expenditure

-\$66.68

This number/amount is calculated.

Have you experienced any issues with your intended project budget to date? If so, please explain reasons for any major variances or for providing incomplete information:

No - we were able to deliver this project by going over by \$66.68. The additional funding was covered by Lady Khadija Charitable Trust.

Feedback

You are almost at the end of your final report. Before submitting, please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:

Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very Difficult

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?

120

Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60 minutes)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that we might consider:

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N/a

InternetNZ is a membership organisation. Would you be interested in hearing more about becoming a member?

Yes please No thanks I am already a member