

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher: Ms Jody McPhee, Australian National University

Project Title: Perspectives of Mental Health Professionals on Consumer Representatives

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** I am conducting research into the perspectives of mental health professionals on consumer representatives. Through interviews with mental health professionals, this research seeks to identify motivations for mental health professionals to be allies to consumer representatives.
- **Participants:** I intend to interview 18 multidisciplinary mental health professionals, across Australia, who have varying experiences working with consumer representatives.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The data will be analysed and written up for an Honours thesis. It will then be submitted in a peer-reviewed journal and possibly used for conference presentations. A summary of the research will be made available to participants via email at their request.

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Your participation in this research is voluntary, and you may decline to take part or to withdraw from the research without providing an explanation at any time until the transcription of data is complete. Within the interview, you may also decline to answer any question. If you withdraw, the data you have provided prior to withdrawal will be destroyed and not used.
- **What does participation in the research entail?** You are invited to take part in an interview with me about your experiences working with consumer representatives in your role as a mental health professional. With your consent, I will record the interview so that I can accurately transcribe it, and the recordings will be destroyed after transcription. During the interview, I may ask some personal questions about how working with consumer representatives has impacted you professionally, and what experiences you may have with consumer representatives.
- **Location and Duration:** Interviews are expected to last about 50 minutes, and will be conducted at a place of your choosing – for example, your office, on the ANU campus, via skype.
- **Risks:** The research carries little risk, although you may feel uncomfortable or distressed if you have had negative experiences with consumer representatives. Should you require any support, a list of tele-counselling services will be provided to you.
- **Benefits:** It is unlikely that you will personally benefit from participation in this research. However, the work will improve our understanding of how to encourage mental health professionals to support consumer representatives, and improve the experiences of consumer representatives.

Exclusion criteria:

- **Participant Limitation:** Mental health professionals that are not active in service provision, or are working at a consumer led organisation will be excluded from this research.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** We will keep your identity confidential as far as allowed by law. Access to the data you provide will be restricted to the research team, and identifying details will be removed during the checking of the transcriptions of the research data. Published results will only be reported with no attribution, and no participant will be identifiable within published outputs.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/pp1/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** Data will be securely stored on my supervisor's (Dr Brett Scholz) password-protected computer in the Medical School at the Australian National University
- **How long:** All research data will be retained and securely stored for 5 years on Dr Scholz' password-protected ANU laptop, following the submission of the Honours thesis.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** After 5 years, the data will be archived by Dr Brett Scholz.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** Any requests for information or queries regarding the study participants should be directed to u5822287@anu.edu.au (0429 522 106) or my supervisor Dr Brett Scholz (brett.scholz@anu.edu.au, +61 612 5 5753).
- **Contact Details if in Distress:** If you feel distressed by any questions, you should contact the beyondblue (1300 22 4636) or Lifeline (13 11 14).

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2019/280). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au