

## **Counsellors' experience with the Pluralistic Approach to counselling in Australia.**

Ethics Approval Number: **S191280**

### **Research Team Contact Details**

The research team consists of Chief Investigator Dr Mark Pearson (University of the Sunshine Coast), Dr and Mr Marc de Bruin (Student Researcher). Please direct questions to:

#### **Chief Investigator**

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### **Project Description**

The purpose of this research project is to conduct interviews with counsellors currently in Australian Counselling practice, to establish what -if at all- counsellors' experience is with the Pluralistic approach. The project also aims to potentially make recommendations for counsellor education (McLeod, Smith, & Thurston, 2016) and research (Hanley & Winter, 2016), which could lead to further development and application of the pluralistic approach in counselling in Australia.

### **Participation**

If you agree to participate in this research project, you will be asked to complete an interview that will take approximately 60 minutes of your time.

The interview will ask questions such as:

1. Could you tell me something about how you practice in your clinic?
2. What ways of conducting counselling in your practice give you the most personal contentment?
3. What is your theoretical or practical understanding of Integrative approaches to counselling?
4. What is your lived experience on the value of using lots of different approaches? Do you think there are "preferred" ways?

The interview will take place at **TBA** on **TBA**.

The interview will be audio recorded.

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part you are not required to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any point. If you do wish to withdraw from this research project, please contact Dr Mark Pearson (contact details at the top of this form).

Your decision to participate (or not), will in no way impact your current or future relationship with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

### **Consent**

You will be asked to provide written consent before participating in the interview.

Consent is for the use of your data and information in a non-identifiable format in this research project only.

### **Risks and Benefits**

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project. These include:

- the social risk of being identified through qualitative presentation of quotes and then treated differently (negatively). This risk can be mitigated via deidentification of stored or presented data.
- An inability to respond to 'crisis calls' or other (client) emergencies when in the interview room. This risk could be mitigated by pausing the interview until a later, more appropriate time, or by making arrangements for such occurrences before attending the interview.
- A feeling of discomfort, realising that there are many more ways to practicing counselling than you may have previously identified. This risk can be mitigated by additional training and research.

It is anticipated that this research project will directly or indirectly benefit you. Introduction to (or revisiting) a novel way of practicing counselling allows you to add additional resources or options for study to your counselling practice.

### **Privacy, Confidentiality and Results**

Any data collected as a part of this research project will be stored securely as per USC's Research Data Management policy. All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law.

As the interview will be recorded, you are entitled to know the following:

- You will have the opportunity to verify your comments and responses prior to final inclusion.
- The audio recording will be destroyed after presentation of the research data.
- The recording will not be used for any other purpose.
- You will have access to the recording, as well as the person who may be involved in the transcribing of the recording.
- It is possible to participate in the project without being recorded via note taking. This may take more time than initially indicated.

The results of this research project may be presented at external or internal conferences or meetings, or by publication. If you would like a summary of findings of this research project, please contact the Chief Investigator (listed above).

### **Concerns or Complaints**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the way this research project is being conducted you can raise them with the Chief Investigator (listed above). If you prefer an independent person, contact the Chairperson of the USC Human Research Ethics Committee: (c/- Office of Research, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC 4558; telephone (07) 5430 2823; email [humanethics@usc.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@usc.edu.au)).

**Thank you for consideration of this study. Please keep this sheet for your information.**