

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project: Understanding workforce and related pathways for specialists working with people using family violence

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Funded by: Centre for Workforce Excellence (CWE) within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the Project Lead via the email address listed above.

The aim of this project is to further our understanding of the workforce and related pathways for specialists working with people using family violence, informed by:

- Interviews with key stakeholders.
- A survey of people who work with people using family violence, or who work in a cross-sector organisation.
- **Focus groups with people who are working with people using family violence or in roles where they employ or train people in this workforce.**

Your participation

The focus group will take approximately 1 hour via Teams. You will also receive a focus group guide which will provide information on how the focus group will run and the key questions that will be asked so you have time prior, to think about your responses. The focus group will be based around mapping education, training and employment pathways for specialists working with PUFV, identifying gaps, barriers and opportunities to grow the workforce; map existing skills and capabilities, job roles and functions of those currently in the workforce; identify potential career pathways, identify potential attraction and recruitment strategies and identify options for future workforce composition. Focus groups will be recorded so that they can be transcribed by the project lead (with no identifiable information). Once the focus group has been transcribed the recording will be deleted.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been contacted to take part in this research due to your role and understanding of the specialist workforce working with people using family violence.

Source of funding

This research has been funded by the Centre for Workforce Excellence within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Once you have read this material, if you wish to take part in this project, please sign the consent form provided, scan and send back to the Project Lead via email: jessicas@ntv.org.au

You can withdraw from the research process at any time prior to or during the focus group. After that time your de-identified data will make withdrawal impossible. *There are no consequences of your decision not to participate, or to withdraw at any time.*

Possible benefits and risks to participants

This project aims to further our understanding of the specialised workforce working with people using family violence. By providing your professional insight you can contribute to the project objectives of:

- Map education, training and employment pathways for specialists working with PUFV and identify gaps, barriers and opportunities to grow the workforce.
- Map the existing skills and capabilities, job roles, and functions of specialists currently working with PUFV.
- Identify any potential career pathways into the workforce from the community services sector and other related workforces from justice, mental health and alcohol and other drugs.
- Identify and develop potential attraction and recruitment strategies for new, appropriately qualified practitioners to this workforce.
- Identify and develop options for future workforce composition for this workforce (such as any additional roles and functions).

Your experience in this specialised workforce will help to provide greater depth to the picture of what is happening within organisations working with people who use family violence. This focus group is not connected to your employment with your organisation or membership with NTV and you will be de-identified from any information provided. Therefore, there are no foreseeable risks to participants.

Services on offer if adversely affected

Please contact the No To Violence via phone 03 9487 4500 or email jessicas@ntv.org.au, if you experience any adverse effects from participating in this project.

Confidentiality

It is expected that all participants of the focus group exercise confidentiality. If it is at all necessary to repeat anything that is said during a focus group, it is expected that participants de-identify that information. Participants will not be individually identified in any published material arising from this project. Recordings of the focus group will be deleted once a de-identified transcript of the interview has been completed. Any comments written into the 'chat' function on Zoom will also be de-identified when transcribed.

Storage of data

Any resulting data from this study will be stored in password protected electronic storage folder that can only be accessed by members of the research team. All data will be destroyed five years after the completion of the study.

How the information will be used

The information from the interviews will be used to write a report for the Centre for Workforce Excellence within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. The department will decide how the report is shared or used. Your personal details will be not included in the report.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact Dr Rebecca Buys, Head of Advocacy, Policy and Research: rebeccab@ntv.org.au or via phone 03 9487 4500

Thank you,

Dr J Seamer