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*WHAT WORKS*

*Positive experiences in open employment of mental health service users*

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING**

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. Your involvement is entirely voluntary (your choice). If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

**What is the Aim of the Project?**

The aim of this research is to identify the factors that contribute to the positive and successful employment experiences of mental health service users.

**Who will participate in this study?**

We want to interview mental health service users in open employment and their employers.

Open employment means regular jobs (part time or full time) which are either permanent or contracted.  For this project we are not wanting to interview people using supported employment services or who are working in mental health services as a peer, consumer advisor or lived experience practitioner. Our definition of mental health service users is people who are using primary or secondary mental health services (e.g. GPs, NGO services, DHB mental health teams) on either a regular basis or from time to time.

**What will Participants be asked to do?**

Participating employees and employers will each be interviewed separately but consecutively, by Dr Sarah Gordon at a place and time of your convenience. When interviewing Maori employees/employers, Sarah will be supported by Tane Rangihuna. When interviewing Pacific Island employees/employers, Sarah will be supported by [to be advised]. The interviews will be semi-structured which means that we can provide you with most of the questions that are going to be asked before the interview. Each interview should take about one hour.

**What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be made of it?**

Before the interview we will ask some general questions about you. This information will be used to make sure we interview a range of people. You have the right to access and correct this information.

Through the interview Dr Gordon will ask questions about what you believe to be the critical factors that contribute to the positive and successful employment experiences of mental health service users.

Dr Gordon will ask your permission to audiotape the interview. The audiotapes will be transcribed. We will send you the transcription so you can check it, make any changes you consider necessary, and sign it off as correct. We will then analyse the transcripts to identify themes that have come through the interviews. We will also identify quotes that reflect certain themes well.

The audiotapes and transcripts will be securely stored in such a way that only the project investigators can access them.

We expect most participants will want their data reported in a form that does not personally identify them. We will do this by using pseudonyms in place of the names of employees, employers and workplaces. We are aware that any of these three variables could make you identifiable and will make every attempt to preserve your anonymity through all reports on the study. Where an employee and employer are in agreement, you can choose to have your information presented in a personally identifiable way. Should you be considering this we recommend you reading the ‘*thinking about disclosure’* fact sheet we have prepared and discuss this further with us.

The research will be presented in a report for publication as a Like Minds, Like Mine resource. The report will be publicised, disseminated and promoted through LMLM providers, networks, and forums. Publications will also be submitted to academic journals. The published results of the project will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand).

Once the study is completed and the results published, the audiotapes and transcripts will be stored for 10 years in a locked filing cabinet in a locked storage room at the University of Otago, Wellington and then they will be destroyed.

You are most welcome to request a copy of a summary of the results of the project should you wish. There is a section on the consent form that allows you to make your request known.

**Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?**

If you do agree to take part in the study, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason, and without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

**What are the Risks and Benefits of being involved in the Project?**

We don’t expect you to experience any ill effects from taking part in the study.

**What if Participants have any Questions?**

If you have any questions about this project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:-

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This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph 03 479 8256). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.