

Project title: Evaluating a new measure of competence for Master of Professional Psychology students

Project Summary: The study aims to improve the reliability and validity of competency assessments conducted by clinical supervisors. Specifically, the project involves an evaluation of the Practicum Competency Measure Assessment (PCAM) tool which was designed for use in Master of Professional Psychology programs. The research arises from empirical evidence indicating relatively unsatisfactory outcomes when supervisors use Likert scales for competency ratings. As you will be aware, credible, and valid supervisor assessments are critical to professional training.

You are invited to participate in a multisite research study. Six Australian universities currently participate in this research, with this number continuing to grow.

Who is conducting the study? This study is being conducted by Cathryne Lang, Craig Gonsalvez, Sonja Pohlman, Julia Reynolds, Affrica McCarthy and Will Drotsky, who were involved in the development of the PCAM. As both the developers and evaluators of the PCAM, any possible conflict of interest will be managed through the peer review process of any publication that arises as part of the evaluation of the PCAM.

How is the study being paid for? Each participant institution currently pays their own costs to build on these research findings and enhance outcomes for trainees. There is no direct cost to the supervisor or supervisee (provisional psychologist).

What will I be asked to do? As you are aware, the University requires a Practicum Competency Measure Assessment (PCAM) to be completed for each supervisee at the end of the placement, and some Universities require a mid-placement review to also be completed. You may participate in the research by consenting to the inclusion in the research of de-identified mid- and end-placement assessment data.

If you agree to participate, the Project Officer for the Placement Review platform will assign you a code and only your de-identified data with assigned code will be provided to the research team. Thus, both supervisor and student participants will remain anonymous.

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participation in this research.

How much of my time will I need to give? No additional time is required of you, just permission to use the de-identified data for research.

What specific benefits will I receive for participating? At an individual level, you will receive no reward or benefit. The research is expected to refine current assessment instruments and yield better outcomes for trainees, supervisors, and institutions.

How do you intend to publish the results? The research findings in terms of group means and trends will be presented at conferences and published in scientific journals. No individual data will be published.

Research data will be retained in password protected electronic files by the research team for a period of five years from the date of the final publication before being destroyed.

Can I withdraw from the study? Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. Your decision to participate or not will have no impact on your placement or grades. Your supervisory team will not know whether you have agreed to participate. If you do participate, you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you do choose to withdraw, your data will be excluded from the research. To withdraw, just email the Project Officer at admin@placementreview.net and request that your data be excluded from the research. The Project Officer, who will retain access to participant identification (e.g., names) AND the assigned codes, will delete from the database the data matching the code assigned to you.

What if I require further information or want to know about the results? Please contact Dr Cathryne Lang on cathryne.lang@griffith.edu.au if you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether to participate or wish to be provided with a summary of the research results.

Privacy statement: The conduct of this research involves the collection of personal information e.g., gender, area of practice endorsement to allow the sample to be described. This data will only be accessible by research team and will be kept in a non-identifiable form (i.e., without your name or email). Only aggregate data will be reported in the research summary or any publications or presentations.

Ethical conduct of project: Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the project you may contact the Manager, Research Ethics on (07) 3735 4375 or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au. This project has received ethical approval from the Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (GU ref no: 2022/798).