

## **Project title: Assessment of practicum competencies in psychology and other disciplines.**

**Project Summary:** The study aims to improve the reliability and validity of competency assessments conducted by clinical supervisors: Specifically, the project involves i) an evaluation of the Clinical Psychology Practicum Competencies Rating Scale (CΨPRS) and, ii) the design and standardisation of a new tool – the Vignette-Matching Assessment Tool (VMAT). 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 clinical training.

You are invited to participate in a multisite research study led by Professor Craig Gonsalvez (School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University) and Professor Frank Deane (School of Social Sciences, UoW). Eleven Institutions including 9 Australian and 2 international universities currently participate in this research, with this number continuing to grow.

### **How is the study being paid for?**

Initial establishment costs were funded by an Office for Learning and Teaching Grant (Project: ID14-3639). Each participant institution currently pays their own costs to build on these research findings and enhance outcomes for trainees.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

As you are aware, the University requires you to complete the Clinical Psychology Practicum Competencies Rating Scale (CΨPRS) for your supervisees at mid- and end-placement. You may participate in the research by consenting to the inclusion in the research of de-identified mid- and end-placement assessment data you provide.

### **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.

### **Will the study involve any discomfort for me? If so, what will you do to rectify it?**

No discomfort.

### **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.

### **Can I withdraw from the study?**

Participation is entirely voluntary and you are not obliged to be involved. 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 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 the specific participant.

### **What if I require further information?**

Should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate, please contact:

- The Project Officer ([OLTProjectOfficer@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:OLTProjectOfficer@westernsydney.edu.au); Tel: 02-42214563)
- Professor Gonsalvez ([c.gonsalvez@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:c.gonsalvez@westernsydney.edu.au); 02-47360185),

### **What if I have a complaint?**

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H10828.

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 Fax +61 2 4736 0013 or email [humanethics@uws.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uws.edu.au).

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

**If you agree to participate in this study, complete the Consent Form below by clicking the relevant box.**