

# Research Participant Information Statement

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| **Research Study Title -** | Psychotherapists’ perspectives on therapeutic interventions to address trauma-related somatisation of refugees and asylum seekers |
| **ACAP HREC Approval Number** | |  | | --- | | 472020419 | |
| **Researcher’s Name** | Anthony Brent Caldwell |
| **Researcher’s Relationship to ACAP** | Masters student |

1. What is the study about?

The refugee and asylum seeker population often have serious mental health issues, particularly trauma-related issues associated with bodily complaints. Clients often have a bodily rather than psychological focus and this can be culturally-driven. Given this and the lack of evidence-based treatments, this may be challenging for psychotherapists. There are some promising interventions in the literature here and overseas, the focus for this study is to get an understanding of how these issues are being treated by psychotherapists in Australia and what seems to work. The literature has identified this as a worthwhile but qualitatively unresearched area.

1. Who is carrying out the study?

Anthony Brent Caldwell, a student at the Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP), is carrying out the research towards a Master of Counselling & Psychotherapy degree under the supervision of Dr Pol Dominic McCann and Dr Jelena Zeleskov Djoric, Senior Lecturers in the discipline of Counselling & Psychotherapy at ACAP.

1. What does the study involve?

As a participant in this study, you will be involved in an interview of approximately one hour in a private location face-to-face or video conference at your workplace or a nominated alternative. The interview will be recorded and then transcribed verbatim. The data will be de-identified in any reporting or presentations that result from the study.

1. How long will the study take?

The interview will take about one hour of your time. You will also be asked to review a transcript to check for accuracy. If you do not return the transcript within a two-week time frame it will be understood that you are satisfied with the transcript and that it is deemed accurate and ready for analysis.

1. Will I incur any costs by participating in this study?

No

1. Are there any risks attached participating in the study?

There are risks associate with the current research project. Participation is voluntary. The one-on-one interview will explore your perspective on therapeutic interventions when working with refugees and asylum seekers. The questions are open-ended and non-directive, allowing you to freely answer the questions in the style and level of depth you feel comfortable with however this might be potentially be distressing for you and if so, you may choose how much to disclose, have a break or end the interview at any time without consequence.

1. Can I tell other people about the study?

The participant may provide the information statement to other eligible participants.

1. Will I receive the results of the study?

If you wish, I will send you the final summarised de-identified report by email after December 2019 when the study is completed.

1. Confidentiality and disclosure of information

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your consent, except as required by law. Research in some instances may discover illegal activity, including notifiable activity giving rise to legal implications which may include:

• a statutory obligation for the researcher to disclose information revealed or discovered;

• legal orders that compel disclosure of information obtained by the researcher.

Any presentation or journal article will be in de-identified and summated format so that it will not be possible to identify you. The data will also be checked by you and corrected if you feel it necessary.

Password-protected computers and locked cabinets will be used by myself during the duration of the project and on completion, all material will be stored on a USB, handed into ACAP for a mandatory storage period of five years and then deleted.

1. Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are not under any obligation to consent and - if you do consent - you can withdraw at any point up to two weeks after you have been emailed the transcript of your interview. You can withdraw your consent by advising me either verbally, via email or by completing and returning the “Participant Withdrawal of Consent Form” that is supplied herein. You may stop the interview at any time if you do not wish to continue. The recording will be erased and the information provided will not be included in the study.

1. How can I obtain further information?

When you have read this information, I will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact either myself, Anthony Caldwell at [**238900@my.acap.edu.au**](mailto:238900@my.acap.edu.au) or Dr Pol Dominic McCann, coordinating researcher, at PolDominic.McCann@acap.edu.au

1. What can I do if I have a complaint or concern?

Any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study should be directed to the:

ACAP HREC Secretary

Australian College of Applied Psychology

Locked Bag 11, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Email: [hrecsecretary@navitas.com](mailto:hrecsecretary@navitas.com).

Any complaint will be investigated promptly and you will be informed of the outcome.

**This information sheet is for you to keep.**