

Participant Information Statement

Research study: Australian psychiatrists' and psychologists' perspectives on psychotherapy for people with schizophrenia.

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1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study about Australian psychiatrists' and psychologists' perspectives on psychotherapy for people with schizophrenia. Though Australian and international guidelines recommend psychotherapy as part of routine care for people with schizophrenia, reported referrals are low. We wish to explore what factors may be involved, including practitioners' attitudes towards the efficacy, availability and safety of psychotherapies as a treatment to augment psychotropic medication for schizophrenia. We also hope to contribute to understanding how psychotherapy can continue to adapt towards the needs of schizophrenic patients. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

2. Who is running this study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr Anthony Korner, Director Westmead Psychotherapy Program for Complex Traumatic Disorders, School of Medicine, University of Sydney.
- Dr Suyin Hor, Senior Lecturer, University of Technology, Sydney.
- Dr Natalya Godbold, School of Medicine, University of Sydney.

Dr Natalya Godbold is conducting this study as a part of the requirements contributing towards fellowship with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. She is also a student of the Masters of Medicine at the University of Sydney.

3. Who can take part in the study?

We are seeking Australian psychiatrists (post fellowship) and psychologists (registered), who we are contacting via professional conferences and mailing lists, and professional social media groups on Facebook.

4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to engage in a 15-25 minute interview with Dr Godbold, exploring your experiences either with referring patients for psychotherapy, or with provision of psychotherapy yourself, or both, with schizophrenic patients. We will discuss topics such as, your perspectives on the efficacy, availability and safety of psychotherapies as a treatment to augment psychotropic medication for schizophrenia. You may also have thoughts on how psychotherapy could be adapted to meet the needs of schizophrenic patients. The interview will take place via Zoom or Teams, at a time and place of your choosing, and will be recorded using Zoom or Teams software, producing an automatic transcript which will be analysed for themes using Nvivo software. During interviews, Dr Godbold will be seated alone in a private room and the conversation will not be audible to other parties from her end.

5. Can I withdraw once I have started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

We do not anticipate your decision will affect your relationship with RANZCP (professional body for all Australian psychiatrists) ¹ APS, AAPi or ACPA (professional bodies for Australian psychologists) ².

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind, you can withdraw by advising Dr Godbold during the interview, or by advising her by email or phone call after the interview has taken place, up until summaries of the findings have been provided to participants. If you wish to modify or add to your remarks you can also do so by contacting Dr Godbold, up until that same deadline.

If you take part in an interview you may refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer.

¹ Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)

² Australian Psychology Sociate (APS), Australian Association of Psychologists (AAPi) and Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA)

6. Are there any risks or costs?

(1) There will be no risk to your patients, as we will remind you to maintain patient confidentiality, when describing your clinical experiences, and we will further generalise reporting of findings to remove any recognisability of patients or the practitioners who treated them. (2) There is a cost of giving up some of your time. (3) You may be troubled by the recall of particularly difficult experiences with patients e.g. suicide or deterioration. However, you will likely have already explored these experiences with your supervisors / peer groups and in your own therapy. We will encourage you to take any such material back to your professional supports. (4) You may feel constrained not to discuss use of non-evidence-based therapeutic approaches. To mitigate the above, participants and their workplaces and patients will be deidentified in publications / presentations of the research.

7. Are there any benefits?

You will not receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

But the research may contribute to modifications of psychotherapy offered to psychotic patients. And it may contribute to a research base for / against recommendation of psychotherapy to psychotic persons.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information from or about you for the purposes of this study.

Any identifiable information you provide us will be stored securely and will only be disclosed with your permission unless we are required by law to release information.

We plan to publish the study findings.

You will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

The interview will take place via Zoom or Teams, at a time and place of your choosing, and will be recorded using Zoom or Teams software, producing an automatic transcript which will be de-identified, and then analysed for themes using Nvivo software. During interviews, Dr Godbold will be seated alone in a private room and the conversation will not be audible to other parties from her end.

We will use Zoom or Teams to transcribe interviews. This will involve sharing your information with Zoom / Microsoft. We will not share this information with anyone else without your consent unless we are required to do so by law. Zoom is owned by Zoom Video Communications Inc and is located in San Jose, California, US. Microsoft Teams is owned by Microsoft and located in Redmond, Washington US..

We will store this information and dispose of it securely following the University's Recordkeeping Policy. Recordings and transcriptions will be moved to the Research Data Store (RDS) for storage. Working copies of the transcriptions will be stored on the University's OneDrive service. The data from this project will be retained for a minimum of 5 years after the completion of analysis and publication, after which it can be disposed of securely.

For more details about how your information will be handled please see the University's [privacy webpage](#).

9. Will I be told the results of the study?

You have the right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. On the consent form, you can request a copy of a draft summary of the findings prior to presentation / reporting.

10. What if I would like more information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher(s) will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Dr Natalya Godbold (Masters of Medicine Student)
email: ngod5129@uni.sydney.edu.au

11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [ethics reference: 2024/HE001630] according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager
human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
+61 2 8627 8176

This information sheet is for you to keep