

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET ODYSSEY HOUSE EVALUATION PROJECT, ETH17-524**

### **WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?**

My name is Rosemaree Miller and I am a research assistant from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). My supervisor is Toby Newton-John (Toby.Newton-John@uts.edu.au).

### **WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?**

This research is to find out about the long-term outcomes for individuals who undertake the residential rehabilitation program at Odyssey House, New South Wales. We will be assessing these outcomes in relation to mental health, physical well-being and substance use before and after an individual's time in the residential rehabilitation program.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for this project has been received from NSW Health.

### **WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?**

You have been invited to participate in this study because you have entered the residential rehabilitation program at Odyssey House, New South Wales. Your contact details were obtained from the same organisation.

### **IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?**

If you decide to participate, I will invite you to:

- Give consent to the use of your data for research purposes after entering the Assessment stage of the residential rehabilitation program at Odyssey House, New South Wales. The data will be collected as part of standard Odyssey House procedures. The questionnaires will ask for details about your mental health, physical well-being and substance use. You will also have the option of providing additional contact, next of kin and trusted person details to the UTS researchers so they can contact you for the future time-points.
- Complete the same group of questionnaires about your mental health, physical well-being and substance use, and a demographic survey another four times. The UTS researchers will contact you through phone, email or other digital means, and you can complete these sessions as a phone interview or as an online survey. You will be contacted within two weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months once you exit the Odyssey House program. Each session will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes.
- Give permission for the UTS researchers to access Odyssey House records for your demographic information, contact information and questionnaire results for research purposes. Your information will be de-identified during this process.
- Give consent to the use of your de-identified data for research purposes in reports submitted to Odyssey House and NSW Health, as well as in the dissemination of the research findings, i.e., presentations, journal publication.

### **ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?**

Yes, there are some risks and inconveniences involved in agreeing to be a part of the Odyssey House evaluation project. You will be asked to provide potentially sensitive information about your personal details, mental health, physical well-being and substance abuse. You will also be contacted up to four times by the UTS researchers to complete the required paperwork over a period of up to 2 years, depending on when you exit from the residential rehabilitation program at Odyssey House, New South Wales.

### **DO I HAVE TO SAY YES?**

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?

If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the UTS. If you wish to withdraw from the study once it has started, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason, by contacting Rosemaree Miller (Rosemaree.Miller@uts.edu.au). If you chose to withdraw from the research project we will not collect additional personal information or questionnaire data from you. However, you should be aware that it may not be possible to withdraw your data from the study results after data collection has been completed if these have already had your identifying details removed. Data collected up to the time you withdraw will also form part of the research project results.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. All of this information will be treated confidentially. All personal information and questionnaire data will be de-identified for data preparation, analysis and reporting. Some personal information will remain identifiable so the researchers can contact you in the future for the purposes of data collection, however these details will be kept in secure digital locations at Odyssey House, New South Wales and at the Sydney CBD campus of the UTS. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project, and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law. Once data collection is complete, all personal information and paperwork identifying you will be destroyed.

We plan to discuss, report and publish the results related to mental health, physical well-being and substance use with Odyssey House, New South Wales, and NSW Health. The purpose of this disclosure is to assist Odyssey House, New South Wales, in assessing the effectiveness of their residential rehabilitation program for individuals who participate in it. Regarding publication, the results of the Odyssey House evaluation project will produce evidence for the usefulness of therapeutic communities in treating drug, alcohol and other addictions. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified from it.

#### WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research that you think I or my supervisor can help you with, please feel free to contact me through my email address at Rosemaree.Miller@uts.edu.au.

#### NOTE:

This study has been approved by the University of Technology Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee [UTS HREC]. If you have any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the conduct of this research, please contact the Ethics Secretariat on ph.: +61 2 9514 2478 or email: Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au], and quote the UTS HREC reference number. Any matter raised will be treated confidentially, investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.