



Survey Information Sheet

People seeking asylum: Access and support in higher education

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Background on the project

As you know, people seeking asylum who live in the Australian community can face challenges accessing higher education. In recent years, a number of Australian Universities have started offering full fee-paying 'humanitarian scholarships' and other supporting initiatives. However, not enough is known about the effectiveness of these scholarships and supports. Through surveys and interviews with university and community sector stakeholders, and interviews with people seeking asylum, this project examines the impact of scholarships specifically for people seeking asylum and other enabling initiatives, identifies best practice, and produces greater awareness of their engagement and barriers to higher education.

Part of this project will involve undertaking a national survey of universities and community sector organisations so we can record national data on numbers of people seeking asylum currently engaged in higher education, and an estimation of those who would like to. Through this survey, we aim to provide a factual and comprehensive overview of students seeking asylum that will act as a resource for higher education stakeholders who need to know about, and support, these students.

Benefits of participating

Participating in this research project will give you the opportunity to share your experiences of supporting people seeking asylum to access and participate in higher education with us and others in Australia who may be able to learn from your experiences. People seeking asylum, refugee support agencies, government departments and others may gain important insights into how people seeking asylum may be better able to access higher education through the results of this project.

What will be involved if you agree to participate?

If you would like to participate in this project, we would like to invite you to complete an online survey to hear about your experiences of supporting people seeking asylum to access and participate in higher education. We will ask you for the information about the number of students seeking asylum enrolled at your institution, the number graduated, and the specific supports available for students seeking asylum within your institution (such as enabling programs and scholarships).

If you agree to share your thoughts with us, we will make sure your name does not appear in any of our research unless you wish it to be included. Everything you tell us will be kept confidential, and any information you tell us will only be included in one of our reports if you wish it to be included.

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number HR21/2016). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223, or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093, or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

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