

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

<b>HREC Project Number</b>	HRE2024-0415
<b>Project Title</b>	Exploring perceptions of HIV self-testing amongst migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Western Australia
<b>Chief Investigator</b>	A/Professor Gemma Crawford
<b>Co-Investigator</b>	Dr Roanna Lobo
<b>Student researchers</b>	Ashika Shaibu, Esther McCourt, Mackenzie Beswick and Michael Brown
<b>Version Number</b>	2
<b>Version Date</b>	20/05/2024

**What is the Project About?**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a completely preventable and treatable infection. In Australia testing is conducted through laboratory tests, clinical point of care tests and self-tests. While there have been many developments in HIV research, treatment and testing, migrant populations tend to be left behind. We aim to further explore how migration status, culture, community, and gender influence your attitudes, beliefs, and acceptability of HIV self-testing. We hope to assist in expanding the understanding of migrant views on HIV self-testing.

**Who is doing the Research?**

The project is being conducted by Ashika Shaibu, Esther McCourt, Mackenzie Beswick and Michael Brown under the supervision of A/Professor Gemma Crawford (Chief Investigator) and Dr Roanna Lobo (Co-Investigator) and will be used by the student researchers to fulfil requirements to obtain their Curtin University Bachelor of Psychology. There will be no cost to you to participate.

**Why am I being asked to take part and what will I have to do?**

We are looking for migrants born in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa who are over the age of 18 and live in Western Australia. We would like to spend approximately 90 minutes speaking to you about your understanding and attitudes towards HIV self-testing; we will spend this time asking you various questions relating to HIV and sexual health and we would like for you to share whatever you are comfortable sharing in response to those questions. In-person interviews will be conducted at the Bentley Campus of Curtin University, in a private room and online interviews will be conducted through your choice of Microsoft Teams or WebEx. We will be required to record audio during the interview so we can concentrate on listening to the information you share; this recording will be transcribed and checked by members of the research team and the recording will be deleted as soon as we are able to.

**Are there any benefits' to being in the research project?**

While there may be no direct benefit to you from participating in this research, you may find that having the opportunity to discuss feelings and attitudes may have a positive emotional and mental impact. We will also be providing links to places you can find further information on HIV and testing options. We hope that the results from this research project will add valuable information and help improve knowledge around HIV self-testing in migrant populations living in Western Australia.

**Are there any risks, side-effects, discomforts or inconveniences from being in the research project?**

Due to the sensitive nature of sexual health, we foresee that some questions may cause distress or discomfort. We have carefully worded our questions to avoid causing unnecessary distress or discomfort and will be providing you with links to outside assistance and further information in the case of distress or discomfort.



Information regarding parking at or travelling to Curtin University will also be provided for those who will be attending in person interviews. In the case of an outbreak of COVID-19 the research team will follow Curtin University protocols and WA Government directives and online interviews will be offered. Face to face interviews will take place in a well-ventilated room which allows social distancing as much as is practicable and hand sanitiser will be available. In the case where an interviewer or participant reports they are COVID-19 positive an online interview will be offered.

**Who will have access to my information?**

The information you provide to us will go through a deidentification process once it has been transcribed and the audio recording will be deleted from the device and the information drives. Data from each interview will then be given a numerical code. In the event that you wish to remove yourself and your data from the study, we will be able to delete your transcript from the data set. The AI transcription service, Otter.ai will be used to transcribe interviews, however, this service has security measures in place that ensure data is password protected and only accessible to the research team. In the case of participant withdrawals, the transcripts will be deleted immediately from the source. All electronic data will be password protected, and hard copy data (such as video or audio tapes) will be protected by locked storage. The electronic data for this project will be stored on a Curtin Research Drive which will only be accessible by the research team; audio recordings and identifiable data will be deleted following the transcription check and deidentification process. The information that is collected in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for 7 years following the completion of the study, after which, all data will be destroyed. The results of this research may be presented to groups of people or published in professional journals. You will not be identified in any results that are published or presented.

**Do I have to take part in the research project?**

Taking part in a research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project. If at any point you do withdraw from the project, your responses will be removed from the data set prior to analysis commencing.

**What happens next and who can I contact about the research?**

If you decide to take part in this research, we will ask you to sign the consent form; for in person interviews we will be able to provide you a physical copy to sign prior to the commencement of your interview. For online interviews we ask that you sign utilising a virtual signature or send a photo of your signed consent form; if neither of these options are available to you, we are happy to provide you an opportunity to verbally consent to your participation in this research. By signing it is telling us that you understand what you have read and what has been discussed. Signing the consent indicates that you agree to be in the research project and have information from the interviews used as described. Please take your time and ask any questions you have before you decide what to do. You will be given a copy of this information and the consent form to keep. After the conclusion of the interview, you will be offered a \$30 e-gift card as a remuneration for your time.

If you have any further questions, clarifications or concerns please email the research team at: [19169848@student.curtin.edu.au](mailto:19169848@student.curtin.edu.au) and one of the members of the research team will be in contact with you.

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HRE2024-0415). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved in 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](mailto:hrec@curtin.edu.au).