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| HREC Project Number: | HRE2019-0395 |
| Project Title: | Improving health outcomes and service delivery for Australian culturally and linguistically diverse overseas-born people in relation to STIs and BBVs |
| Chief Investigator: | Associate Professor Alison Reid |
| Version Number: | 1.6 |
| Version Date: | 9 February 2021 |

What is the Project About?

- Infections that can be passed on during sex (sexually transmissible infections or 'STIs') and viruses that can be passed through the blood (blood-borne viruses or 'BBVs') are important health issues in Australia.
- We need more information to understand:
 - a) what overseas-born people living in Australia know or think about STIs and BBVs;
 - b) whether any changes are needed to help overseas-born people to stay safe against STIs and BBVs.
- In this project, we will test a survey (a list of questions to ask overseas-born people) to help us learn more. The survey has been designed with help from members of overseas-born communities in Australia.
- If the survey works well, we hope to be able to repeat it every few years so that we can see any changes.
- We are doing this research in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

Who is doing the Research?

- This research project is being led by Curtin University, in partnership with researchers at the University of New South Wales, Queensland University of Technology and La Trobe University.
- This research is supported by funding from the Australian Research Council Linkage Program, Curtin University and contributions from partner organisations. Please visit our project website if you would like to know about the project partners: <https://www.mibss.org/about-us>

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

- You have been invited to take part because you are an adult born in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia or Northeast Asia and living in Australia.
- If you participate in this study, we will ask you to complete a survey. The questions will ask you about the following:
 - your age, gender, religion, country of birth and visa status
 - what you know and think about STIs and BBVs
 - your own health behaviours, including your sexual health.
- You can complete a paper copy of the survey and give it to a researcher, or you can do it online at the following website: <https://www.mibss.org/>

Are there any benefits to being in the research project?

- If you complete the paper or iPad version of this survey in Western Australia, South Australia or Victoria, you will receive a \$15 voucher to thank you for your participation. You will be able to keep the voucher even if you change your mind and decide to withdraw from the study.
- The information that you tell us might help to make better services for Australian people born overseas and improve community health.
- You may also choose to go into the draw to win a \$200 voucher. In order to enter the draw, you will need to provide your contact details but these will be kept separate from your survey responses. A winner will be selected at random. We expect around 1,800 to complete the survey and all of these people will be eligible to enter the draw; this means that the chance of winning the draw could be 1 in 1,800.

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

- This research project is low risk.
- We do not plan to ask you any upsetting questions, and you do not need to answer any questions that you don't want to. Some of the questions might be about private things in your life that you do not want to share.
- If you do feel worried or upset about anything, you can speak to a researcher, contact the Project Coordinator (details below) or visit the Project website: <https://www.mibss.org/support-and-resources>

Who will have access to my information?

- The information collected in this research will be anonymous. This means that your name will not be attached to the survey. No one will know which person gave which answers.
- Only the research team (and, if necessary, staff from the Research Office at Curtin) will be able to access the information collected.
- We will keep electronic information in a password protected computer file and printed documents in locked storage at Curtin University (Bentley campus).

- The information we collect in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for 7 years after the research is published and then it will be destroyed.
- The results of this research may be presented at conferences or published in professional journals. Your name will not be used in any results that are published or presented.

Will you tell me the results of the research?

- We expect that the project will be finished in 2022. The results will be published on the project website: <https://www.mibss.org/publications>
- Results will be based on all the information we collect and review as part of the research, not a single person's answers to any of the questions.

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.
- Any decision you make will not affect your relationship with the University, staff or colleagues.
- If you have a paper version of the survey, you can stop being part of the study (withdraw) by either:
 - not giving it back to the researchers OR
 - giving it back with the word 'WITHDRAW' written on the front page.
- If you are doing the survey online, you can withdraw from the study before you finish the survey by simply closing the browser tab.
- You cannot withdraw from the survey after you have:
 - finished it online and clicked 'submit' or
 - handed or sent a paper version back to the research team unless you have written 'WITHDRAW' on it.

This is because the surveys are anonymous and we will have no way of being sure which survey was yours.

- By completing and returning the paper survey you will imply consent to participate, unless your envelope is marked "Withdraw" OR you select "I do not agree" on the first page of the survey.

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

- If you need further information, you may contact the Project Coordinator (Dr Daniel Vujcich) on (08) 9266 3668 or by email at Daniel.vujcich@curtin.edu.au.
- If you decide to take part in this research you will be asked to indicate your consent on the first page by ticking 'I agree'. By ticking 'I agree' you are telling us that you understand what you have read and what has been discussed. Ticking 'I agree' indicates that you agree to be in the research project and have your information used as described. Please take your time and ask any questions you have before you decide what to do. You can access a copy of this information sheet at any time by visiting: <https://www.mibss.org/ethics>

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number 2019-0395). 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.