Invitation for participants

Do you have a NZQA or equivalent qualification in Massage?

If the answer is YES, you may like to consider volunteering your time!

My name is Sarah Rule and I am conducting a research project for the 2020 Bachelor of Therapeutic and Sport Massage programme (BTSM), at the Southern Institute of Technology. All research to be carried out will be under the guidance of my research supervisor.

“What are the demographics, practice patterns and industry opinions of people that have a NZQA or equivalent qualification in massage”

To be eligible to participate in this research project, the following criteria MUST apply:

- Have completed a NZQA or equivalent qualification in massage whether you presently work in massage or not.
- Be 17 years or older.

Exclusion: If you don’t meet the above criteria.

Are you are interested in finding out more about this study?

If you are interested in finding out more about being involved in this research study and what you would be required to do please e-mail me at 703064@student.sit.ac.nz or follow the link to the information sheet. This details the key aspects of the research and what is expected of your participation.

Alternatively, please read the information sheet attached for more information (the link for the survey is found at the end of the information sheet). Please feel free to share this information with co-workers, employees and other massage therapists that meet the criteria.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Or this one above Please forward this invite to anyone you know who is interested.

Sarah Rule, BTSM research student - 703064@student.sit.ac.nz
What are the demographics, practice patterns and industry opinions of people that have a NZQA or equivalent qualification in massage?

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether to participate. Participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to participate, we thank you for considering our request.

What is the aim of the project?

We are looking for participants to take part in this research project. The project aims to describe the demographics and practice characteristics of qualified massage therapists, as well as exploring their views on the future direction of the New Zealand massage therapy industry. The information you provide will help inform the massage profession, massage educators and other health professionals about how massage therapists work in New Zealand and what those trained in the profession see as important for the ongoing direction of the industry.

Who are the participants?

The population of interest for this study is anyone having completed a New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) or overseas equivalent qualification in massage. We
are interested in hearing from you about your career regardless of whether you worked as a massage therapist or not. You do not need to be currently practicing.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Have completed NZQA qualification in massage therapy at any level or have an overseas qualification that has Massage New Zealand (MNZ) or NZQA equivalence.
- Participants must also be 17 years or older.

What will participants be asked to do?

If you choose to participate in this research study, it will consist of an online survey that will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. The survey has four sections that cover several topics, these include demographics, practice patterns, workforce information and the direction of the profession.

The link to the survey can be found at the end of this information sheet. The survey will be available from the 4th of May to the 14th of June 2020. Note that participation in this study is voluntary.

How data or information will be collected?

Mostly you will be selecting from a list of options, rating on a scale and adding some short answer questions to add detail to the research. The survey site allows you to take a break from answering questions and to continue with the same device. You should be able to return and continue the survey later.

Are there any risks or benefits?

There are no foreseen risks to participating in this research study, however if at any time you feel uncomfortable answering a question please leave it blank. You may choose to withdraw your information by contacting us. We cannot promise the study will bring benefits to the participants, but the information gathered may inform an area of the massage therapy industry.
Confidentiality of participants

No personal or individual identification information will be collected or disseminated, and all population data will be presented as a group. Participant quotes if presented will have no individual identification context.

This is confidential and will not be passed onto a third party. By filling out the survey, you are consenting for this data to be collected, and for any resulting data to be included in a form of publication.

Information collected and how it will be used

Only the supervisors and researcher will have access to the raw data. All data collected will be stored on a secure laptop that is password protected and only used by the researcher. If the data is printed no identifying information will be present on any hardcopy. Participants will not have access to this data until it is analysed and presented. The Southern Institute of Technology research policy requires any raw data on which results of a research project depend to be retained in secure storage for five years, after which it will be destroyed. This will not include any identifying information of participants.

Students and supervisors may co-publish research findings in poster, presentation, or conference format or in academic publications. The results of the project will be prepared in a presentation poster and will be available online at Southern Institute of Technology research page NZ Massage Therapy Research Centre https://www.sit.ac.nz/nzmtrc from December 2020. You can request a summary of the research findings and a letter of participation.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

If you are willing to participate, the survey is located at
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMLG5NB and will take about 40 minutes to complete.

What if participants have any questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

Sarah Rule (BTSM Research Student) - 703064@student.sit.ac.nz

Dr Jo Smith (Research Supervisor) - jo.smith@sit.ac.nz +64 3 211 2699 ext 8803

This survey is approved by the Southern Institute of Technology Human Research Ethics Committee.