

THE MENTORING MEN

EVALUATING MENTORSHIP

A RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

Independent scrutiny can show how our Model of Care works, where it needs to improve and what men experience.

BUILT WITH PARTNERS

Fund Mentoring Men's part in a proposed Flinders University review and national evaluation - the staff, data and practical work behind the study.





ILLUSTRATIVE LIFE-WORLD IMAGE

WHY EVALUATE

TEST THE MODEL. LEARN FROM LIFE.

Our Model of Care sets out the principles, people, intake, matching, support and intended outcomes of one-to-one life mentoring. Independent experts can examine how well it aligns with evidence and where it can improve.

With Flinders University, we propose an evidence-informed desktop audit followed by examination of service data and the experience of mentees, mentors and referring services. The findings would inform practical improvements to care.

PROPOSAL DEVELOPED WITH



WHAT THE STUDY WOULD DELIVER

01

AN INDEPENDENT FIRST LOOK

An initial evidence-informed audit and recommendations are planned by month six.

02

A TWO-YEAR STUDY

Historical data, paired baseline and follow-up Harvard Flourishing Measure data, and interviews would be brought together.

03

ACTIONABLE LEARNING

Findings can guide mentor support, service delivery, measurement and a possible larger evaluation.

WHAT THIS OPPORTUNITY FUNDS

THE WORK BEHIND THE STUDY

We are seeking support for MM's staff, data and implementation work alongside the separate university research budget.

01**DATA AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Prepare service datasets for approved transfer, support outcome measurement and make the technical and data-management arrangements the study requires.

02**STAFF TIME AND PARTICIPATION**

Coordinate with researchers, help establish governance and data-sharing, and support recruitment and participation by mentees, mentors and referral partners.

03**PUT FINDINGS TO WORK**

Bring service knowledge to interpretation, review recommendations and plan improvements to mentor preparation, matching, measurement and delivery.

**ONE BUDGET, CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY**

MM's funded scope and reporting would be agreed with supporters and checked against the university budget and other support, so the same cost is not funded twice.

THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

TWO YEARS. LEARNING IN STAGES.

We would prepare the data and governance, support participation, then put independent findings to work in the service.



EVERYDAY CONTEXT / ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE

01

MONTHS 1-6

Establish governance and data arrangements, support ethics preparation and the desktop audit. An initial independent report is planned by month six.

02

MONTHS 7-18

Prepare approved data, coordinate recruitment and follow-up measurement, and support interviews while researchers analyse the evidence.

03

MONTHS 19-24

Help interpret findings in service context, consider changes to the Model of Care and share practical learning through MM and partners.

WHAT THE RESEARCH CAN SAY

MEASURE CHANGE. EXPLAIN EXPERIENCE.

The review would test our Model of Care against evidence and examine what men experience in actual mentorships.

01

MODEL FIT

Where does the Model of Care align with research, relevant standards and intended outcomes?

02

EXPERIENCE

What do mentees, mentors and referring services say about access, safety and usefulness?

03

CHANGE

How do paired baseline and follow-up measures move, and what more needs study?

INDEPENDENCE AND CONSENT

The proposal is led by Dr Melissa Opozda at Flinders University, connected with the Well Men collaboration. Researchers would control study design, analysis, conclusions and reporting. Funding, ethics approval and a data-sharing agreement are still required. Participant information would be used only through consent and approved arrangements. Changes over time cannot automatically be attributed to mentoring; a later academic publication has its own peer-review process.



THE NEXT STANDARD

BACK MM'S PART IN THE RESEARCH



ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE

The first report would identify gaps and recommendations for our Model of Care, mentor support and measurement. The wider evaluation can help us test the service in practice and frame a possible larger national study.

Building on our existing Suicide Prevention Australia accreditation, we intend to act on findings and seek accreditation against the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations. That would be a separate independent assessment; this study does not confer it.

FUND THE PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTION

Fund MM's staff, data, participant coordination and implementation work so independent researchers can review the model and evaluate the service.

The two-year study is proposed. Research funding, ethics and data-sharing arrangements are still required; MM and university budgets would remain separate.

[TALK TO US ABOUT FUNDING →](#)

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