

## **INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Validating the Modified Rivermead Post-Concussive Questionnaire**

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 1900001173**

#### **Research team:**

Kelly Brooks - Principal Researcher, Provisional Psychologist

Professor Karen Sullivan - Associate Researcher, Clinical Neuropsychologist

School of Psychology and Counselling, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

#### **Why is the study being conducted?**

This research project is being undertaken as part of a Master's thesis by Kelly Brooks on a newly developed measure which assesses a patient's self-reported post-concussive symptoms following traumatic brain injury. The purpose of this research is to determine the degree to which this new measure can reliably assess reported symptoms and whether it can discriminate valid from invalid responses in the data it captures. You are invited to participate in this research project because the research team believes you can help. You are NOT required to have prior knowledge relating to traumatic brain injury, concussion, or head injuries.

#### **What does participation involve?**

We will ask you to complete a survey. There are three versions of the survey, each with slightly different instructions. You will need to complete the version that we will randomly select for you. The questions will ask you about your background (e.g., age, occupation etc) and about the symptoms that may be experienced after concussion (e.g., headaches etc). Participation will take approximately 15 minutes of your time. Please feel free to share this information with your networks as participation is open to anybody who is interested.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate you do not have to complete any question(s) you are uncomfortable answering. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT (e.g., your grades) or any associated external organisation. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project during your participation without comment or penalty. However, as the survey does not request any personal identifying information which is connected to responses, once it has been submitted it will not be possible to withdraw.

#### **What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?**

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. However, it may benefit people who suffer traumatic brain injuries or concussions in the future. Your participation will contribute to our understanding of the different spectrum of symptoms people experience after head injury and potentially help identify those who are not progressing through a typical recovery trajectory, offering a chance for early intervention and prevention of undue suffering.

QUT psychology students enrolled in units PYB100 or PYB102 have the option of EITHER earning 0.5 mark (course credit) via the SONA research participation system OR entering a prize draw after completing the survey. Non-PYB100/PYB102 participants have the option of entering a prize draw after completing the survey. The prize draw consists of the chance to win 1 of 5, \$50 pre-paid VISA cards. Submission of a valid survey response form is required for prize draw inclusion and/or SONA credit. Surveys with more than 50% missing data will be regarded as invalid and excluded from analysis.

Please note the opening date for entries is 24/02/2020 and closing date for entries is 01/10/2020. To enter the randomly selected prize draw, you will be required to enter your contact details at the end of the survey. Note, this will be collected in a separate form and not associated with your research study participation. If you would like to receive information regarding the outcome of this study when it is available, you may provide your email address at this stage also. The Terms and Conditions of the prize draw are included at the end of this document. [Prize Draw Terms and Conditions](#).

### **Are you looking for people like me?**

The research team is inviting the following people to participate:

- 18 years old or over
- Have 20/20 vision (with or without correction)
- Have not experienced a concussion within the last six months
- Have no previous or existing neurological disorder or condition (such as epilepsy, Alzheimer disease and other dementias, cerebrovascular diseases including stroke, migraine and other headache disorders, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, neuroinfections, or brain tumours)

You are NOT required to have prior knowledge relating to traumatic brain injury, concussion, or head injuries.

### **What are the possible risks for me if I take part?**

There are no risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation in this research project.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services (face-to-face only) for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on 07 3138 0999 (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call 13 11 14 for 24 hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

All comments and responses are anonymous (i.e., it will not be possible to identify you at any stage of the research), because personal identifying information is not sought in any of the responses. Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body

such as the ethics committee requests it.

**How do I give my consent to participate?**

The submission or return of the completed survey is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this research project.

**What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

Kelly Brooks - [kelly.brooks@connect.qut.edu.au](mailto:kelly.brooks@connect.qut.edu.au)

Professor Karen Sullivan - [karen.sullivan@qut.edu.au](mailto:karen.sullivan@qut.edu.au)

**What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for contributing to this research project.**