

**The Deaf Client in Therapy:  
Does it Really Matter Who Translates Your Feelings?**

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 1600000168**

**Research team**

Principal Researcher:	Associate Professor Renata Meuter	Head of School
Associate Researcher:	Ms Emma-Lee Steindl Dr Ivan Chang	Research Assistant Research Assistant

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Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

**Why is the study being conducted?**

You are invited to participate in this project because you are a fourth year or a postgraduate student or a registered psychologist in Australia.

The purpose of this project is to examine the role of signed Auslan interpreters in the therapeutic context.

**What does participation involve?**

Your participation will involve two sessions one week apart which will be conducted via an online survey. In each session you will view one 5 minute video-taped vignette of a therapy session with a Deaf person using a laptop or computer. The study will take you about 40-60 minutes in total across the two sessions.

You will also be asked to complete a 36 item questionnaire after each session which asks you about the therapy session and includes statements such as:

The client appeared to connect very easily with the therapist.

You will be asked to rate each statement on a Likert scale from "Very much so" to "Not at all". The questionnaire will take around 15-20 minutes to complete. You will also be asked to fill out a short demographic questionnaire and your email details to receive the second survey a week later.

Your participation in this project is voluntary. If you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from participation without comment or penalty. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT (for example your grades). It should be noted that it will not be possible to withdraw your questionnaire from the research project once it has been submitted.

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

You will not directly benefit in the short term, however this research will help inform our understanding of therapy as it is experienced by Deaf clients. It may also help therapists and interpreters in the future by providing information regarding a client's needs in therapy.

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

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

However, if you do feel distressed while watching the video vignettes, QUT provides free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects. Should any participating staff or clients 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 tell them that you are a research participant. \*Please note, during COVID-19 restrictions the QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic will offer telehealth only services.

Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. For people aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

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

All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law. You will not be asked to provide your name on any of the questionnaires or in any other responses. Any data collected as part of this project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy.

Please note that non-identifiable data collected in this project may be used as comparative data in future projects or stored on an open access database for secondary analysis.

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

If you are interested in participating, please find further information and the consent option in the first survey via this link: [https://qutc.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6umrHulaFFCSFmJ](https://qutc.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6umrHulaFFCSFmJ).

Please remember to check your emails for the second survey link a week after you complete the first survey.

### **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:

Renata Meuter                    [r.meuter@qut.edu.au](mailto:r.meuter@qut.edu.au)                    07 3138 4641

Emma-Lee Steindl            [em.steindl@qut.edu.au](mailto:em.steindl@qut.edu.au)

Ivan Chang                    [ivan.chang@qut.edu.au](mailto:ivan.chang@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 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.**