

2016/2017 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **4 July 2016**

Supervisor Information (First named supervisor will be the contact):

First Supervisor's Name and Title: Mrs. Jen Desrosiers

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): Department of Population Health, University of Otago

First Supervisors Phone: 03 364 3617

First Supervisors Email: jen.desrosiers@otago.ac.nz

First Supervisors Mailing Address: PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr. Katerina Standish (University of Otago, Dunedin)

Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):

Clinical

Laboratory

Community ✓

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Empowering the bystander: Gender violence, leadership and cultural change in the New Zealand Defense Force.

Project Description:

Introduction:

Gender violence is prevalent throughout New Zealand culture¹, yet little data is available on prevalence within the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Hypermasculinity and unit solidity, including pressure to conform to group norms, have been established as features of the armed forces² and can lead to a culture where gender violence is accepted. Traditional prevention of gender violence focusses on the victim (eg avoiding certain situations) and occasionally on the perpetrator (no means no). These strategies fail to acknowledge cultural norms³ and the role of the bystander – the individuals making up the group that are neither the victim or perpetrator.

Aim:

1. To raise awareness of men's verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of men and women, with special attention given to how this plays out within the culture of the military;
2. To challenge mainstream messages about gender, sex, masculinity and violence;
3. To inspire leadership by empowering participants with practical ways to combat gender violence in their everyday lives. This includes techniques for intervening in situations that could lead to gender violence, how to speak out against social norms that promote gender disparity and gender violence, and being effective allies for victims of gender violence.

Possible impact (in lay terms):

After completing the program military participants will have an increased sense that they can intervene to prevent gender violence. Overall this will produce significant positive changes in attitudes and behaviours among personnel, foster leadership, and break down the culture of gender violence that exists within the NZDF.

Method:

The program is based on a peer leadership model, whereby program staff train participants who in turn facilitate workshops attended by larger numbers of personnel. Interactive discussion, simulated real-life situations and role play form the bulk of the program. Program delivery can be tailored to suit the needs of the NZDF.

Outcome measurements:

1. Awareness would be measured by pre-test/post-test survey designed to measure change in attitudes. Surveys would also be completed by a comparison group composed of military personnel who did not participate in the program.
2. Behaviour change of participants and personnel would be measured by a simulated real-life situation, where participants would demonstrate practical ways to combat gender violence and predicted behaviours.