

## **(From a Committee application)**

### **Project summary**

HIV infection is a serious, expensive and escalating public health threat in New Zealand. As elsewhere the burden of HIV is carried by gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). After a decade of stability, condom use (the main way to prevent HIV) is declining, infections are rising and more effective treatment means that the number of adults living with HIV is rapidly expanding.

A notable gap exists in our knowledge of HIV risk about Asian MSM – including of [Nation] men. This is particularly important given this group is one of the largest and fastest growing migrant groups in New Zealand. It is also a very important group to investigate as there is an increasing HIV epidemic among MSM in [nation], and the knowledge, views and practices that contribute to this may be present among men moving to New Zealand.

Obtaining information about [nation] men will allow for nuanced, relevant and inclusive HIV health promotion to be developed by organisations such as the NZ AIDS Foundation. As such the research will also contribute to reducing the health disparities experienced by migrant populations and MSM more generally.

### **List the ethical issues considered and explain how they have been addressed**

*Confidentiality of information provided:* Standard protocols will be put in place.

*Harm to individual participants:* It is unlikely the research processes will bring about harm to participants. However, contact details for appropriate support services will be provided for participants on the information sheets.

*Comfort of research participants:* Some participants may feel reluctant to take part in the study. One way to address this is to provide a range of interviewers and provide a brief bio of each to give participants choice in determining who they will be liked to be interviewed by. Interviews will be available in English or [national language] which will add to the participants' comfort.

*Harm to interviewer:* Standard protocols will be put in place.

*Harm to [nation] community:* It is unlikely the research results will bring about harm to the community. Although Catholicism is a central feature of [nation] society, there are very accepting views about gay/bi men.

The researchers are also experienced in reporting 'negative findings' in appropriate ways.

### **If your research involves the general population, outline how the involvement of Maori participants will be managed**

There will be no Māori participants.

There may be some general elements of the results that might be of interest to HIV prevention for Māori and we have undertaken to discuss these with the NZ AIDS Foundation who are chiefly responsible for the formal HIV prevention response in NZ. We would also present to others in the sexual health field in New Zealand if they are interested. We are not aware of any current specific research focus on Māori and HIV, but note that the NZAF does include a Māori focus in its health promotion (including a Hui Takatapui) and we are also aware of Dr X's HRC project which will investigate understandings of wellbeing and access to health services for the Takatapui community and may well touch on such issues. We would provide the results to these groups.