



Monday, 26 February 2024

## **CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Leena Putkonen

**Confirmation Panel Date:** Wednesday, 21 February 2024

### **Panel Members:**

Dr Amanda Douglass (HDR Director & Chair)  
Dr Craig Smith (HDR Director & Shadow Chair)  
Dr Heidi Staudacher (Principal Supervisor)  
Prof Seetal Dodd (Associate Supervisor)  
Prof Antonina Mikocka-Walus (Associate Supervisor)  
Prof Kevin Whelan (Associate Supervisor, External)  
Dr Alyna Turner (Head of School nominee)  
Dr Llew Mills (External Researcher)

### **Overview and comments from the panel:**

- The project appears feasible in the time available as although it requires recruitment of participants the number required for this is relatively small and ethics has already been approved.
- Leena has an excellent background understanding due to her previous clinical experience and is progressing well. She is very engaged and passionate about the project.
- The student/supervisor relationship is working well with weekly meetings currently occurring. Whilst Prof Felice Jacka was listed as the original primary supervisor, this was in an interim capacity until Dr Heidi Staudacher received approval to be a primary supervisor. Dr Heidi Staudacher has acted as the primary supervisor since the beginning of the project and became the official primary supervisor in January 2024.
- Whilst it was noted that there are additional aspects to the project in the presentation (additional planned publications) this does not warrant a resubmission of the documentation. It was recommended that she should consider including the paper Symptom perception, placebo effects, and the Bayesian Brain by Ongaro and Kaptchuk (2019) in her literature review in the eventual thesis.

### **Recommendation:**

Outcome 1. Candidature was confirmed



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Staudacher".

Dr Heidi Staudacher  
**Principal/Executive Supervisor**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. Douglass".

Dr Amanda Douglass  
**HDR Director and Chair**