



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS for: Former methamphetamine users in New Zealand

Research Project Title: *Pathways into and out of P.*

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1. LIFE SATISFACTION CHART

The '*Life Satisfaction Chart*' is designed to get you to subjectively evaluate the major sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction at each age period of your life – i.e., when were you satisfied with life, when were you dissatisfied, and when were you somewhere between the two?

The Life Satisfaction Chart is designed to help provide clues about which events and circumstances have impacted upon your subjective state. Getting you to trace your level of satisfaction with life over time also helps you to begin to retrospectively recall important events from your past. The more accurately you can recall past events the higher the quality of the data this research is able to obtain from you.

2. INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

The interview is divided into two parts.

In the first part I want to talk more openly about your life from beginning to the present.

In this talk we will cover the following topics: family, education, work, friendship, romantic relationships, marriage, parenting, and health.

In the second part I want to turn specifically to the topic of your methamphetamine use.

PART 1: Your Life in Review.

Perhaps the best way to learn about your life is to start from the beginning.

Generally speaking, I want to know what have been the major 'turning points' in your life.

I also want to focus on the significant relationships in your life, and the things that have influenced those relationships, including your drug use.

In Part 1 'drug use' refers not to methamphetamine, which we will cover in detail in Part 2, but to the use of both legal and illegal drugs, such as alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, etc.

FAMILY

Let us start back with your parents and what they were like and what life was like when you were a kid.

And what about your siblings? What kind of relationship did you have with your brothers and/or sisters – and your cousins?

Did anyone in your family use drugs when you were growing up?

What were the norms or attitudes regarding drugs when you were growing up? Did these attitudes impact your drug use?

Do you think your family has influenced your drug use? And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your relationships with your family members?

SCHOOL

I want to ask you about school. What were your feelings towards school?

How was your school performance?

What were your relationships like at school, both with teachers and your classmates?

Do you think school influenced your drug use?

And if you did drugs whilst at school, do you think your drug use impacted upon your education?

WORK

I want to ask you about your work.

Tell me about the jobs you have had (from the earliest to the most recent), and the relationships with your work colleagues.

Do you think your work has influenced your drug use?

And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your work?

FRIENDSHIP

I want to ask you about your friendships.

Can you tell me about the friends you have had in your life, and how they have influenced you – and how you have influenced them?

Do you think your friendships have influenced your drug use?

And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your friendships?

RELATIONSHIPS & MARRIAGE

I want to talk about your romantic relationships, including any marriage partners.

Can you tell me about the serious romantic relationships you have had in your life, and how they have influenced you – and how you have influenced them?

Do you think your romantic relationships have influenced your drug use?

And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your romantic relationships?

PARENTING

I want to talk about parenting. Tell me about having child/children and then your experience of being a parent. What was, and is, your relationship like with your child/children?

Do you think parenting has influenced your drug use? And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your parenting and your relationship with your children?

HEALTH

I want to ask you about your health.

How has psychological and physical health been throughout your life?

Do you think your health has impacted upon your drug use?

And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your health?

How religious or spiritual are you?

How has this changed over time?

Do you think your faith and/or spirituality has impacted upon your drug use?

And, conversely, do you think your drug use has impacted upon your faith and/or spirituality?

Looking back on your life, what do you think have been the most important influences on your life?

What have been the most memorable experiences of your life – both negative and positive ones?

And why were they so memorable?

Do you think these experiences have influenced your drug use?

Let us turn to your methamphetamine use.

How did you start using meth? For example, who introduced you to it, how did you get it, and when and where did you use it?

Why do you think you started using meth? What was happening in your life at the time you started using it?

How did your meth use change over time? For example, how did the frequency of use change? Did the people you used meth with change over time? Did the time and places you used meth change?

And *why* do you think your meth use change?

What was happening in your life when your meth use *increased*?

What was happening in your life when your meth use *decreased*?

How did your life change after you started using meth? For example, how did it impact upon your psychological state, your personal relationships, your professional life, your physical health?

How did your *control* over meth change over time? For example, did you feel in control of your use – or did you feel your use had gotten out of control (i.e. it controlled you)?

How did you stop using meth? For example, did you just go 'cold turkey' or did you seek help from family or friends, or did you seek formal treatment?

Why did you stop using meth? What was happening in your life at the time you stopped using meth?

If you relapsed after stopping, how and why did you relapse? What was happening in your life when you relapsed?

How did your life change after you stopped using meth?

If you sought drug treatment, how was your experience with the treatment program you chose? In what ways did it help and in what ways did it hinder your recovery?

If you are still in any type of treatment, how has your involvement in treatment changed over time?

If you did not seek formal drug treatment, why not?

If you could have any kind of treatment, what type of treatment program would you choose? Why?

Finally, let us turn to today.

Who are the significant others in your life right now?

Were these people with you while you were using meth?

How do you feel about where you are in life right now – such as your family, work, friendship, financial and health situation?

Looking back on your experience with methamphetamine, what advice would you give those thinking about trying it for the first time?