



09th and 10th June 2026.
Hotel Hills Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

When Access is Restricted: Understanding Interview Rejection by Halal Certification Agencies in Australia

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INTRODUCTION

- Significant shift in the trends and popularity of halal industry
- Halal sector advanced substantially in non-Muslim countries
- Halal as part of national economic framework in Australia
- Halal certification bodies function as gatekeepers
- There is a dearth in research on refusal and rejection by halal certification bodies



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HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES IN AUSTRALIA

Halal certification is the process of certifying products or services as pronounced by the Shariah law (Zainuddin et al., 2019)

As of 2026, there are 18 DAFF approved halal certification bodies in Australia



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HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES AS GATEKEEPERS

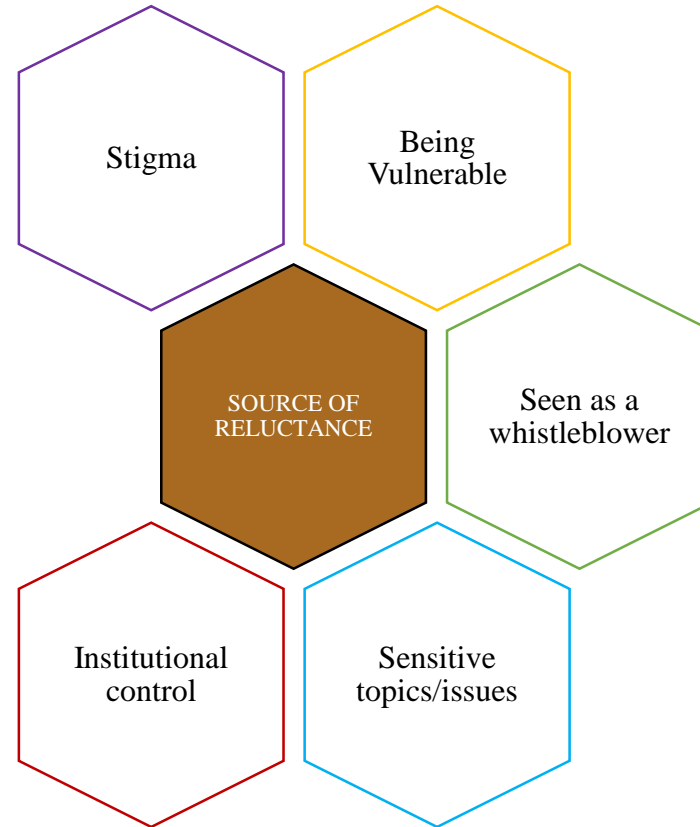
The Gatekeeping Theory explains how information is controlled, filtered, and regulated by individuals or institutions that act as the “gatekeepers” (Deluliis, 2015).

Halal certification bodies can be attributed as powerful gatekeepers in the context of halal industry.



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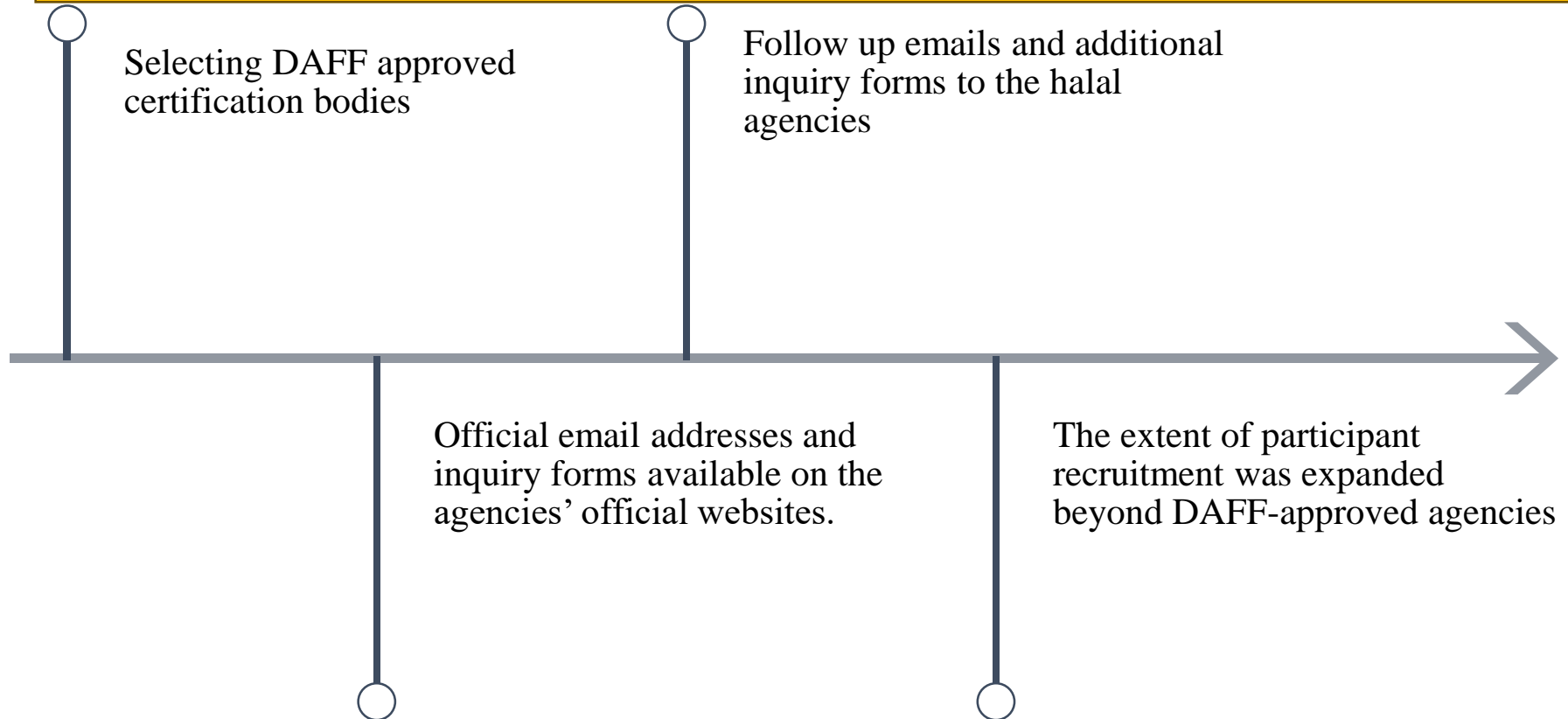
REJECTION IN QUALITATIVE STUDIES





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MATERIALS & METHODS

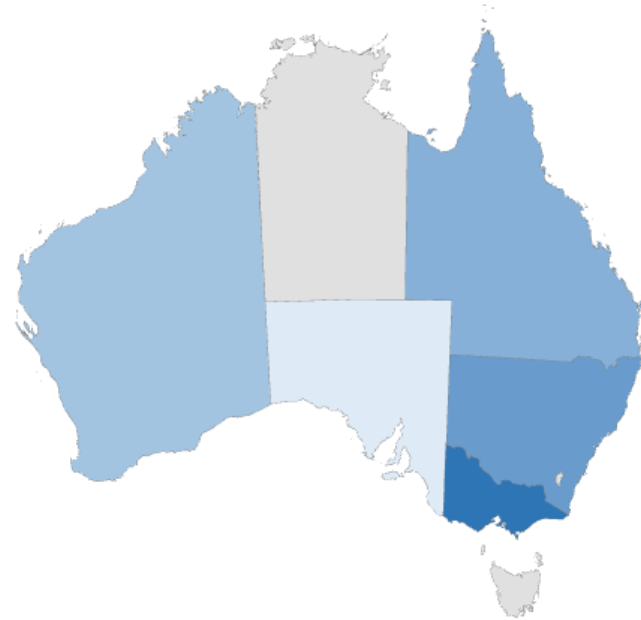




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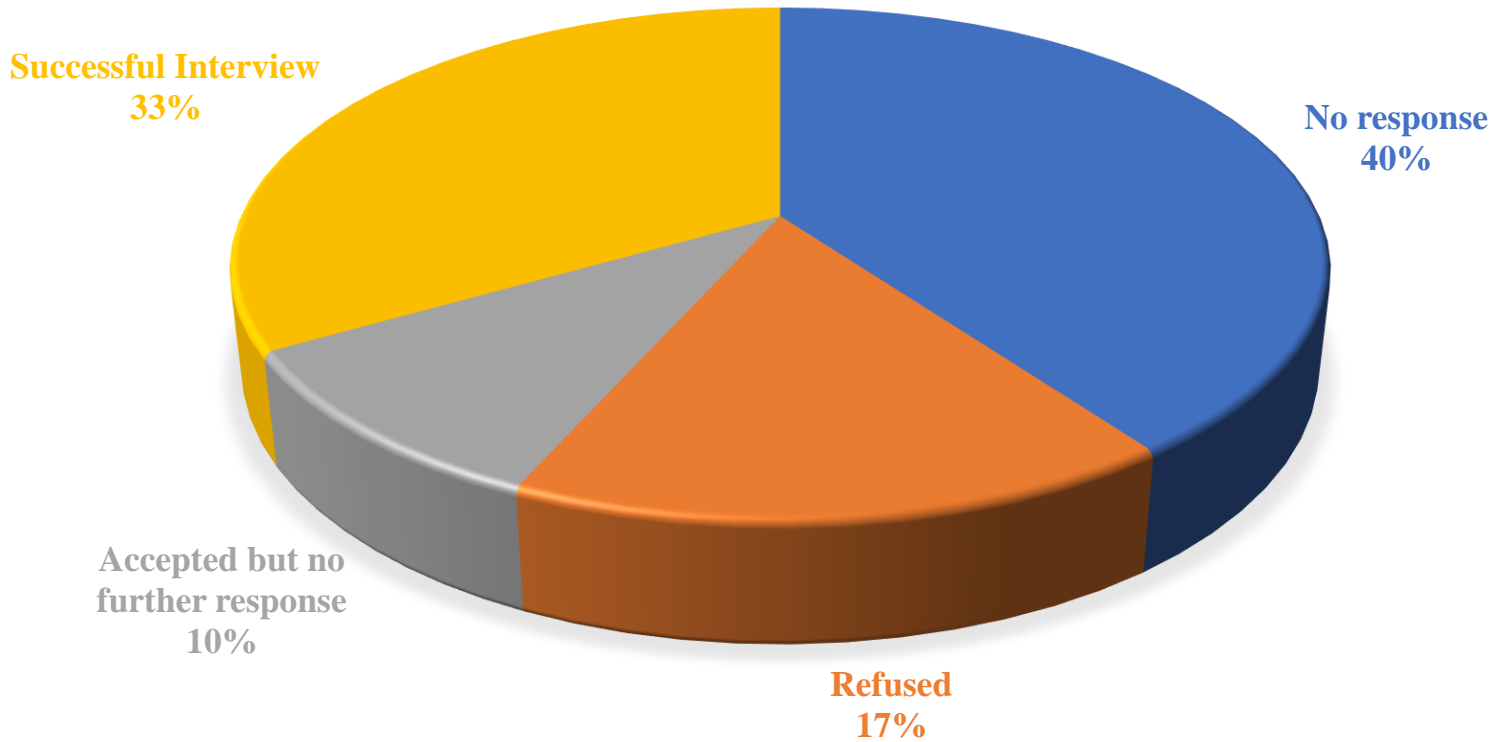


RESULTS



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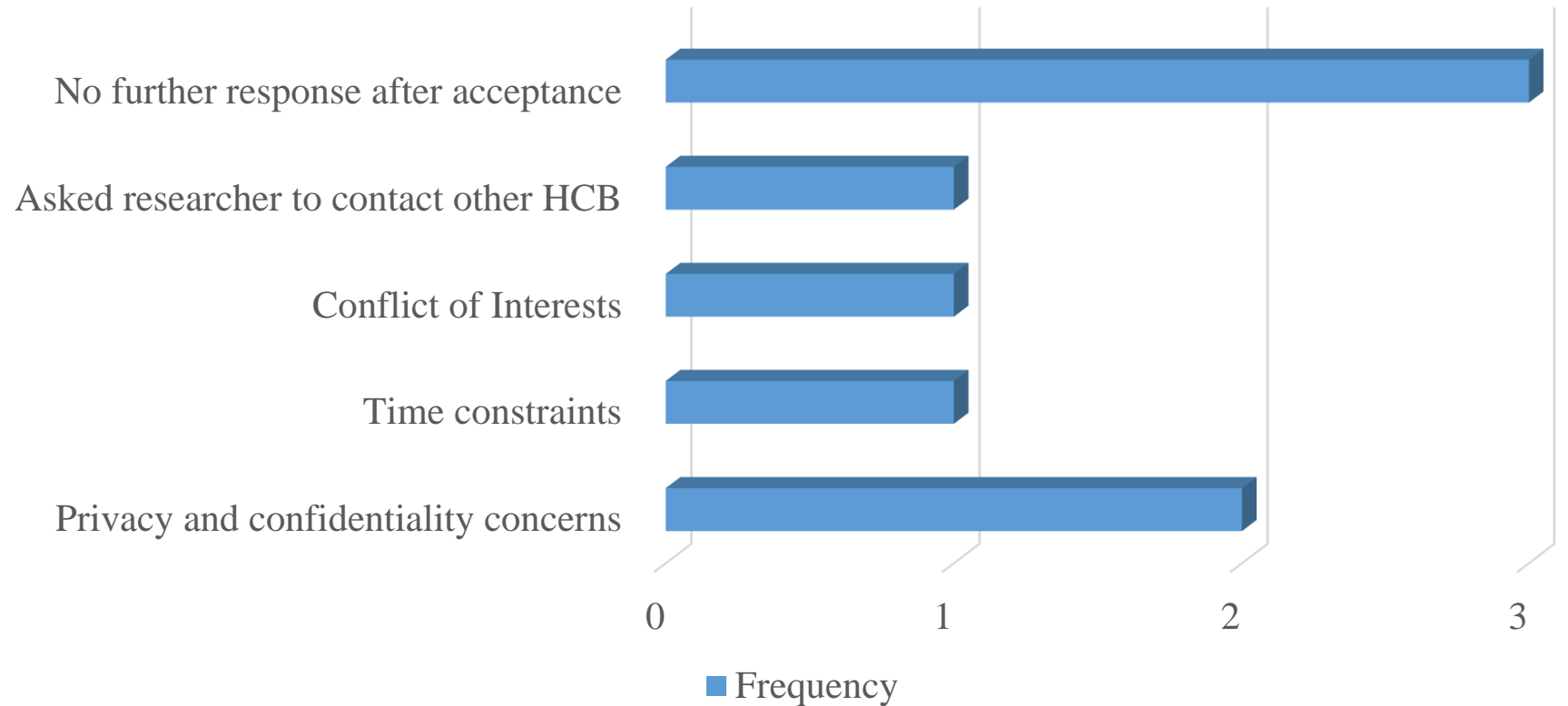
INTERVIEW OUTCOME DISTRIBUTION





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REASONS FOR REFUSAL





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HALAL CERTIFICATION BODIES RESPONSE TO INTERVIEW REQUESTS

01

Privacy and
Confidentiality

02

Time Constraints

03

Conflict of
Interests



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STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME INTERVIEW REFUSAL

Create comfortable environment

Providing clear and comprehensive information

Build rapport

Flexibility

Change perspective

Explore professional connections or networking channel



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Conclusion

- The purpose of this study was to examine the extent of interview refusal by halal certification bodies in Australia as well as to establish the reason researchers have limited access to the halal certification field in Australia
- Refusals can be much more than just and inconvenience or a lost opportunity to collect data, it can reveal significant aspects about the nature and culture of halal certification bodies in Australia, institutional sensitivities, and relationship with power.

Limitation

- Based almost entirely upon data related to recruiting experiences, email communications, and responses received from Australian halal certification bodies
- The scope of this study is also limited to halal certification bodies in Australia

Recommendation

- Allocate enough time and resources to attract participants
- Future studies are encouraged to examine the barriers to access within halal research and observe these barriers by countries and regulatory systems
- A comparative analysis between halal institutions operating in Muslim-majority countries and non-Muslim majority countries would provide additional insights into how institutional, political, and cultural factors influence researchers' access and organizational participation

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION



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