

**INFORMATION SHEET TO PARTICIPANTS**

**Research project entitled**: **Mental health nursing capability development: Perspectives of consumers and carers.**

**Introduction**

Lead Investigators for this study are Professor John Hurley; Consumer academic Cath Roper (University of Melbourne); Professor Mike Hazelton (University of Newcastle) and Professor Kim Foster (Australian Catholic University).

If you have lived experience of mental health challenges, either as a consumer or as a carer, and have had contact with mental health nurses, we would like to invite you to participate in this research project. The aim of the project is to consult with mental health consumers and carers to hear their views on the best educational preparation of mental health nurses.

**What is this research about?**

Currently registered nurses working in mental health are not required to have had any formal education or training in mental health. A recent report given to the Federal Government recommended this be changed. A link to this report can be found here <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/mental-health/report>

This change would allow nurses wanting to work in mental health to receive specialist education. Training courses for nurses wanting to work in mental health that are currently available also need to be more aware of the priorities of consumers and carers.

**What does this research involve?**

We would like to warmly invite you to complete an online survey. This survey is entirely online, anonymous and voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. It will take a minimum of 20 minutes to complete or longer depending on how much you wish to share. Questions will address specific areas of capabilities that mental health nurse education could prioritise, as well as questions seeking your own priority areas. These include topics such as mental health assessments, treatments and law.

**What are the risks associated with this research?**

We understand that answering particular questions might cause discomfort or distress, and if you prefer, you should feel free to skip that question, take a break or withdraw from the project altogether by just closing the survey. If you find that you want support, we encourage you to contact your preferred supports, or GP, or mental health professional or you can contact lifeline on 131114.

Participants are free to seek more information at any time and may withdraw at any time from the study without explanation. No compensation will be offered and no negative consequence will arise from participating, not participating or from withdrawing.

**My responsibilities to you**

For those not wanting to compete an online survey paper based versions are available. Simply indicate this preference on the invitation email that you received. If you would like to have telephone support to complete the survey tick the box that is near the bottom of your email invitation and indicate your preferred contact number for us to call you.

**The likelihood and form of dissemination of the research results, including publication.**

All data will be electronically stored on a password-protected secure database and all hard copy data will be stored in a locked cabinet for 5 years from the date of publication, this is to ensure your confidentiality is maintained. Data will be used for the purposes of this study, as well as being potentially used for secondary analysis in possible future research projects on related or similar topics. All data collected will be de-identified, a process that removes all information that could identify the participating person.

**Informed consent**

As this is anonymous survey, no Consent Form is required; completion and submission of the survey is implied consent.

**Inquiries**

Any participants who require any additional information are encouraged to make contact. I am available for any clarification or discussion on 6659 3688 or e-mail address [john.hurley@scu.edu.au](mailto:john.hurley@scu.edu.au)

**Feedback to Participants**

If you would like a summary of the final outcomes of the study please indicate this by clicking the “Feedback” link at the end of the survey that will take you to a separate page, not connected to the survey, where you can anonymously leave an email or postal address. For participants using a hard copy please fill out your name and email or postal address on the separate A5 page, and place that in the supplied Reply-Paid envelope.

**Ethics Approval**

This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Southern Cross University. The approval number is 2021/114

**Complaints**

Complaints about the ethical conduct of research should, in the first instance, be addressed in writing to the following:

Ethics Complaints Officer

Human research Ethics Committee

Southern Cross University

PO Box 157

Lismore, NSW, 2480

Email: [ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au](mailto:ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au)

All information is confidential and will be attended to as soon as possible.