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## **Knowledge, comfort, approach and attitudes of stroke rehabilitation professionals in addressing sexuality with post-stroke patients**

### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

#### **(1) What is this study about?**

You are invited to participate in a study investigating the current knowledge, comfort and practices of stroke rehabilitation professionals in addressing sexuality in people who have had a stroke. It is being conducted to help inform future sexuality training for health professionals.

You have been invited to participate in this study as you are a health professional who identifies at least a percentage of your current caseload to be stroke care or has had a percentage of your caseload in stroke care in the past 5 years; and have done this for at least 6 months.

Participation in the study is completely voluntary and anonymous. You may decline or withdraw from the study at any stage without harming your relationship with any of the researchers or other members of the University of Sydney, prior to submitting the survey. Once the survey has been submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw your response as submission is anonymous and thus it will not be possible to identify your response.

Please note that consent to participate will be implied with submission of the survey.

**(2) Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr Margaret McGrath, Honours supervisor and Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney
- Dr Emma Power, Honours supervisor and Associate Professor at the University of Technology Sydney
- Michelle Anne Low, Honours student at the University of Sydney

Michelle Anne Low is conducting this study as the basis for the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours at The University of Sydney. This will take place under the supervision of Dr Margaret McGrath, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney, and Dr Emma Power, Associate Professor at the University of Technology Sydney.

**(3) What will the study involve?**

If you choose to participate, it will involve answering some questions on your comfort, knowledge, experiences and perspectives in relation to sexuality and disability. You will also be asked some general, non-identifiable demographic questions.

It is expected that the survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

It is not expected that you will benefit or be exposed to any risks by participating in the study.

**(4) Are there any benefits or risks associated with participation?**

We cannot guarantee that you will generate any direct benefits from participating in the study. However, the research is being conducted to provide greater insight into how health professionals could be better supported to address sexuality with their clients, and thus it may generate indirect benefits. There are no identified risks associated with participating in this study.

**(5) How will my privacy be protected?**

There will be no identifiable information obtained from you in the data collection process. The data will be stored in a secure environment on the University of Sydney server, and access will be restricted to the research team.

Please note that the data collected in this study may be used in the future to conduct comparative research such as to investigate differences in the knowledge, comfort, approach and attitudes of health professionals over time or between countries. Further ethical approval will be sought for future research.

**(6) Who do I contact if I want further information?**

If you would like further information, please contact Michelle Low, Honours student, at [mllow8313@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:mllow8313@uni.sydney.edu.au) or Dr Margaret McGrath, Honours supervisor and Senior lecturer, at [Margaret.Mcgrath@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Margaret.Mcgrath@sydney.edu.au).

**(7) What if I have a concern or complaint about the study?**

This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Sydney [2018/894]. If you have any concerns about the conduct of the study then you may contact a member of the research team (*see question 6 for contact details*) or the Human Research Ethics Committee on +61 2 9036 9161 or at [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)