

Connections Matter for Healthy and Active Aging: Partnering with the New Norfolk community to design new public health and student training initiatives _V1.1

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Research team

Dr Lisa Dalton, School of Health Sciences
Contact phone: 0363243734
Contact email: Lisa.Dalton@utas.edu.au

Professor Andrew Hills, School of Health Sciences
Contact phone: 036324 4009
Contact email: Andrew.Hills@utas.edu.au

Professor Nuala Byrne, School of Health Sciences
Contact phone: 036324 5413
Contact email: Nuala.Byrne@utas.edu.au

Kerrie Walter, Department of Health
Contact phone: 0490 553 864
Contact email: Kerrie.Walter@health.tas.gov.au

Kristy Bartlett-Clark, Corumbene Care
Contact phone: (03) 6261 274
Contact email: kbartlettclark@corumbene.org.au

Myles Clarkson-Fletcher, Centre for Rural Health
Contact phone: 036226 4848
Contact email: myles.clarksonfletcher@utas.edu.au

1. Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study examining the strengths, challenges and what it might take for different allied health professionals (for example physiotherapists, speech pathologists, exercise scientists and physiologists, nutritionists and occupational therapists), aged care staff and registered nurses to work together with the New Norfolk community and surrounding Derwent Valley areas to implement activities that prevent disease, promote health and are supportive of the aging experience.

2. What is the purpose of this study?

This study is being conducted to inform the design of a rural health training site in New Norfolk. The objective is to establish a site that will address public health service delivery gaps and provide community-based learning experiences for allied health and nursing students.

3. How is the study being funded?

The study is funded the Commonwealth Government via an Expansion of the RHMT Program in Aged Care Services grant (GO4897) and partially funded by the School of Health

Sciences at the University of Tasmania. There are no payments or other financial benefits provided to study participants.

4. Why have I been invited to participate?

You are eligible to take part in this study because you are either a community member, or an allied health professional, aged care staff or registered nurse working in New Norfolk or within a surrounding Derwent Valley area, or an academic that contributes to allied health or nursing curriculum at the University of Tasmania. Your participation is voluntary, and there are no consequences for choosing not to participate. You have been identified through your email expressing an interest to be involved in the study.

5. What will I be asked to do?

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to attend one or two separate focus groups to discuss your experiences and/or views on the strengths, challenges and what it might take for different allied health professionals, aged care staff and registered nurses to work together with the New Norfolk community to support activities that prevent disease and promote health in ways that are supportive of the aging experience.

At the focus group, we will guide some discussion about public health initiatives that are supportive of the aging experience through various questions and you will also be encouraged to discuss in depth, reflect, and raise your own issues.

Important discussions and decisions will be documented in a written summary and locked, shared in a secure icloud file at the University of Tasmania. The summary documents will be available at each focus group and you will be encouraged to read these documents, reflect on their content and correct inaccuracies, seek clarification, and engage in conversation to add more information or provide additional insight.

Each of the focus groups will be up to two hours in duration and take place in a confidential room. The community and clinician focus groups will take place at a public location in New Norfolk. The academic focus groups will take place in Launceston. Just prior to the first focus group in which you will participate, we will brief you about the study and ask you to sign a consent form.

The focus groups will be audiotaped using recording software known as OTTER and one of the researchers will be recording the discussion. To minimise the risk of any possibility of third-party data sharing the audio transcriptions will be immediately transferred to UTAS files and deleted from the OTTER recording system following each focus group. The audio recordings may be used in any publications resulting from the research study, however, your identity will remain anonymous and all information will be de-identified to protect your privacy.

6. Are there any possible benefits from participation in this study?

We do not expect direct benefits for participants in this study beyond:

- developing some understanding of establishing a university presence in New Norfolk;
- having say in increasing the opportunity for the local community to access facilities and resources, which may not otherwise be available without establishing the rural training site, and
- enabling public health activities to better meet the growing needs and demands of the New Norfolk community in terms of public health service delivery, supporting the aging experience and allied health and nursing education.

7. Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?

There are no risks anticipated with this study. Should you experience discomfort during or following the focus groups, you may contact the researchers for support. The researchers will also assist you to contact existing supports if needed.

8. What if I change my mind during or after the study?

You are free to withdraw without consequence at any time. We expect the focus groups to occur over a three-month period and if you choose to withdraw after this time your data may have been included in the analysis. It will not be possible to remove your data by this time because it will have been de-identified.

9. What will happen to the data when this study is over?

All raw data will be held by the University of Tasmania for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the first publication. All electronic data will be kept in a locked electronic file on the University of Tasmania and kept on the UTAS server that is password protected. Any physical data, such as notes taken during the focus groups, will be stored in a locked filing cabinet of Dr Lisa Dalton's office in the Old Commerce Building (Psychology Clinic), at the Sandy Bay campus. Signed consent forms will be stored separately in a different folder from the interview data to prevent identification of participants. All other data will be de-identified by allocating an alias first name that you may choose.

The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the UTAS Management of Research Data Policy requires us to consider the potential value of the data for further research and make this available for use by other researchers where there is no ethical, privacy or confidentiality objection and disseminating a full account of their research as widely as possible. There is no ethical reason not to share the data from this project, however, after a period of five years electronic files will be deleted. Consent forms and focus group notes will be security-shredded. Audio tapes will be destroyed.

10. How will the results of the study be published?

All data in this study will be anonymous. Data from this study will be discussed and may be published as the New Norfolk student-assisted multidisciplinary clinic strategy and in the form of journal publications. If you wish to be notified on the results of this study, please feel free to contact us.

11. What if I have questions about this study?

If you have any queries, concerns or issues with this study, please feel free to contact us using the contact details at the top of this Information Form. This study has been approved by the UTAS Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, you can contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 6254 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominate to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote HREC: H0029205.

How can I agree to be involved?

If you agree to participate in this study, you can register for the focus groups by emailing Allied.Health.Expansion.SHS@utas.edu.au

The email responses will be managed by University administrative staff who are not involved with the study and who will not divulge participants details to the researchers but instead share the focus group location, dates, and times with you directly.

Thank you for your time