The Work4Dementia Project  
A survey of workers who care for people with dementia

Researchers from the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania, and Menzies Research Institute invite you to participate in a survey about your job caring for the elderly and people with dementia.

What is the purpose of this study?
Little is known about aged and dementia care employees’ thoughts about their work needs. We don’t know much about the difficult and rewarding aspects about their workplaces and jobs or how they view the care they give people with dementia. This study will survey aged and dementia care employees on their adjustment to their job roles in high demand work environments.

Why have I been invited to participate?
Employees, who as part of their job, care for people with dementia, are invited to participate. Workers can be based in a range of settings and from different countries around the world. Employees may be from a community service and or an aged care home, where they provide care and support the elderly and or people with dementia.

What will I be asked to do?
If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete two online surveys about your adjustment to your work and workplace support. Both surveys will take about 30 minutes each. The second survey will be ready to complete 6 weeks after the first. The survey involves completing questionnaires that ask about your opinion and thoughts about factors related to your work such as how satisfied you are with various aspects of your work, if you experience stress at work, and workplace support. You will also be asked to indicate if you are interested in finding out about future research following on from this project. To participate in the study please visit https://surveys.utas.edu.au/index.php/632266/lang.

Are there any possible benefits from participation in this study?
You will be provided with an opportunity to share information about your job and the demands of your role in the aged and dementia care work environment. Your participation in the study will improve knowledge about workers’ support needs, and how to attract and retain workers in dementia care. This information will inform knowledge about workforce support and capacity. Information collected will help identify strategies to enhance worker roles and workplace organisation. All participants will be given the opportunity to go into a draw to win a prize. The fixed closing date for entry is 30 November 2015. The prize is one of ten $50 vouchers. The winners of the draw will be notified of results via email and or letter. A cash alternative cannot be substituted for a voucher. Failure to fully complete the survey will not disqualify entry into the draw.
Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?
There is a low risk of experiencing distress from completing the questionnaires. If you experience any distress you can access information about distress including depression and anxiety at www.beyondblue.org.au or talk it through over the phone day or night by calling 1300 22 4636.

What if I change my mind during or after the study?
Participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without explaining why. If you decide to withdraw from the research, there will be no negative affect at your place of work or on your legal rights. You may also withdraw any information about yourself that was collected.

What will happen to the information when this study is over?
All information obtained in this study will be used for research purposes only. Your work manager will not be informed of your participation in the project. All information will remain confidential and be kept in a secure location with access only by authorised research team members. Data from questionnaires will be destroyed 5 years after the research is published. No information identifying individual participants will be used in publications arising from the research.

What if I have questions about this study?
Please contact the Project Officer, Dr Erika Altmann, if you have questions about this study at the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre on (03) 6226 4664. You can also contact the Chief Investigator, Dr Kate-Ellen Elliott, on (03) 6226 2657. You can indicate if you would like a summary of the findings by selecting this option in the online survey.

Concerns of Complaints
This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, please contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. Please quote ethics reference number H13800. To find out more please visit www.work4dementia.org. Alternatively, email Work4Dementia.Project@utas.edu.au or telephone (03) 6226 4664 (Monday & Wednesday) our Project Officer who will assist you with registration.

Who are the researchers conducting this study?
Chief Investigator: Dr Kate-Ellen Elliott
Co-Investigators: A/Prof C Stirling, A/Prof A Martin, A/Prof K Sanderson, Prof J Scott, Prof A Robinson

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