



School of Nursing &
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You are invited to participate in a research study being:

A study of nurses' use of empathy when working with psychiatric consumers in acute care mental health settings

Project Investigators:

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What this project is about?

Empathy (the ability to understand another person's thoughts, feelings and experiences) is an extremely important part of a nurse-consumer relationship. In this study we want to find out more about your experiences of empathy during the time you have spent in acute care mental health settings. We are particularly interested in conflict situations, for example when you have had a disagreement with a nurse, been secluded or restrained, or when you have not wanted to take medication. From this information we hope to develop an understanding of the ways in which consumers experience empathy in an inpatient setting, and the challenges that they think exist in developing an empathic and therapeutic relationship in order to guide care. The results of this study will be published in relevant health related peer-reviewed journals and presented at conferences.

Funding for this study has originated from Flinders University, and will only be used for salaries of personnel who are involved in this research and infrastructure costs.

How will I be involved?

If you agree to participate you will be asked to think about and describe an experience where you felt that a nurse had taken your perspective in a conflict situation, and asked some questions about what this was like. You will be encouraged to discuss the issues arising from these questions in depth if you would like.

The interview will consist of two parts: the first will discuss a specific situation of your choosing. The second part will involve your more general perceptions of empathy relationships between nurses and consumers.

There are no right or wrong answers, and your responses will be used for no other purposes except this research study.

The total interview time will be no longer than 60 minutes, and may be shorter. You will be interviewed at a suitable time for you. You will have the opportunity to review a transcript of your recorded interview.

You are invited to participate in this research project but you do not have to be

involved, whether you wish to or not is entirely up to you. Whether you take part or not, this will not affect your involvement in any services and groups which you access. You can also withdraw from the project at any time.

In the unlikely event that participation causes you any personal distress you may stop the interview. You are encouraged to talk with the free counseling services or program staff provided through MIFSA (telephone: 8378 4100). You may also like to discuss concerns with a coordinator of any program or group which you are a part of, or another health professional that you have contact with.

Alternately, you may wish to contact the Mental Health Triage Service line on 131465.

Will you be paid for participating?

You, as a consumer participant will be reimbursed \$25.00 for your travel to attend the interview. However, participation in this research study is voluntary, and this reimbursement is not designed to encourage or persuade you to participate.

Who will interview you?

If you agree to participate, you will be interviewed by 1 or 2 researchers (who will be in the room at the same time).

How will confidentiality be maintained?

Your name or any identifying material will be removed from the interview transcripts by a qualified transcriber (a person provided from a pool of transcribers within Flinders University who is aware of confidentiality requirements).

All records containing personal information will remain confidential and no information which could lead to identification of any individual will be released. Your identity will not be disclosed in the event of any publication arising from this study. The interviews will also be used to develop a measure of empathy in acute mental health settings, but no identifying information will be used in this development. To comply with Government rules and guidelines, your records must be allowed to be viewed by representatives the Research and Ethics Committee or other regulatory bodies for the purposes of auditing, in association with this study. The information collected as part of this project in the form of records, audio recordings and transcripts will remain in a secure area of Flinders University, School of Nursing & Midwifery for a period of 7 years after which they will be destroyed.

How can I find out more information?

Recruitment or Questions about the research project
By contacting Carly Hayman on 8201 5068, or email carly.hayman@flinders.edu.au.

Ethical aspects

This study has been reviewed by the Southern Adelaide Health Service/Flinders University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular in relation to policies, your rights as a participant, or should you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the ethics manager on 8204 4507 or email research.ethics@health.sa.gov.au