

INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM FOR ONLINE SURVEYS

Measuring the impact of COVID-19 on nursing practice and wellbeing

What is the research study about?

You are invited to voluntarily participate in a nursing study aimed to determine the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on nursing practice and well-being. Findings from this study will inform how to best support the current and future nursing workforce during an epidemic or pandemic.

Who is conducting this research?

My name is Sue Sheppard-Law and I am a nurse academic at UTS. Three nurse academics and a clinical nurse consultant will work with me on this study, and their names are Professor Marg Fry, Deborah deBono, Jacqueline Richmond and Anna Doab will work as a team on this study.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. You are invited to participate if you are a nurse working in an Australian health care setting and are able to read English. Midwives are excluded from this study acknowledging practice differences.

Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part. If you decide to participate, please complete the online anonymous questionnaire. The first question confirms that you consent and willingly proceed.

Questions ask demographic and workforce questions, change to practice, knowledge needs, perception of COVID-19 risk, exposure to COVID-19 and questions related to well-being and strategies used to self-care. The questionnaire will take 20-25 minutes to complete. You can change your mind at any time and stop completing the surveys without consequences.

Are there any risks/inconvenience?

A small risk that you may become upset when you think about your work during COVID-19. All nurses working in an Australian public health service have access to an Employment Assistant Program or COVID-19 counselling. You may also telephone Beyond Blue helpline: 1300224636 or Lifeline 13 11 14

What will happen to information?

The online questionnaire will collect and store your anonymous answers in REDCAP (a secure database). Questionnaire data will be stored on a backed-up, password-secured Data Storage Facility hosted by AARNET (CloudStor) in Australia. Data is accessible only to the members of the research team.

We plan to discuss/publish the results. As your data is anonymous, your data cannot be withdrawn once the questionnaire has been submitted.

What if I have concerns or a complaint?

If you would like to talk to someone who is not connected with the research, you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on +61 02 9514 9772 or Research.ethics@uts.edu.au and quote this number ETH21-6552