



Participant Information Sheet – Dual Qualified Nurse Paramedic

Project Title: Dual Qualification: What can it mean for the patient, the healthcare system and the paramedic profession?

Project Summary:

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Caitlin Fitzgibbon, PhD candidate, School of Health Sciences, Western Sydney University – under the supervision of Dr Liz Thyer, Western Sydney University, Dr Georgia Clarkson, Australian Catholic University and Professor Martin Christensen, University Sunshine Coast.

The paramedic profession as a whole and specifically, state ambulance services, are striving to meet the changing health needs of patients. Yet, whilst scope of practice is rapidly expanding, funding is increasing and roles such as the extended care paramedic are being introduced – the current model of care is failing to keep pace with the changing healthcare needs of patients on a state-wide, national and global scale. This current disparity requires innovative ideas.

The aim of this study is to explore the lived experience of dual qualified emergency nurse paramedics on the frontline of Australian ambulance services. It offers a unique opportunity to share your experience of holding registration as both a nurse and as a paramedic.

How is the study being paid for?

Western Sydney University is funding this study through RTF funds.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to participate in a recorded interview with the primary researcher. This will take place via Zoom at a time convenient to you. During the interview you will be asked to discuss your experiences of working as a dual qualified nurse paramedic.

How much of my time will I need to give?

It is anticipated that each individual interview will take one hour.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

There are no specific personal benefits derived from participation. Participants comments may provide insights that will shape the future of the dual qualified nurse paramedic and therefore the broader healthcare workforce.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

It is not anticipated that the discussion will raise any sensitive or confronting content, however participants will be able to move to another topic or cease the interview at any stage. If you do become distressed, you may cease the interview and gain support through any of the following organisations:

- Your own ambulance employer Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- **Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636**

- *Lifeline - 13 11 14*

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

This study forms part of a PhD research project. It is anticipated that the results will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that the participant cannot be identified, except with your permission. Confidentiality will be maintained through the de-identification of all transcripts and in addition, pseudonyms will be used.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period of time. It will then be destroyed after 5 years.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time up until the end of the interview without giving reason. If you do wish to withdraw, any information that you have supplied will be destroyed.

To withdraw from this research, please notify the chief investigator via email at c.fitzgibbon@westernsydney.edu.au

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about this research by sharing the study via social media platforms and/or by providing others with the chief investigators contact details.

What if I require further information?

Please contact Caitlin Fitzgibbon should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate.

Caitlin Fitzgibbon
Chief Investigator
c.fitzgibbon@westernsydney.edu.au

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H14343



What will happen with my information if I agree to it being used in projects other than this one?

Thank you for considering being a participant in a University research project. The researchers are asking that you agree to supply your information (data) for use in this project and to also agree to allow the data to potentially be used in future research projects.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

You have been asked to agree to Extended consent

Extended consent

When you agree to extended consent it means that you agree that your data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project
- in the same general area of this research.

The researchers will allow this data to be used for the purpose of PhD thesis, future publication and conference presentations.

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at the University in its data repository and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use **will not** have information in it that makes you identifiable. The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

The researchers want to keep the data for **5 years** for possible re-use. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>