

Project Title

Women in Paramedicine: Exploring the experiences of female paramedics in Australia through creative research.

Research team contact details

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Description

This project is being undertaken as part of a Doctor of Philosophy through the University of Southern Queensland. The purpose of this project is to examine and document the experience of women who have worked within the discipline of paramedicine in Australia at any time, over the last 3+ decades. Previously, prehospital emergency care and transportation was a role dominated by males. Despite tertiary education facilitating increased female demographic currently employed in the industry (>50%), career progression is still limited, the glass ceiling still exists, and the stories and experiences of women who work or have worked in this profession are either reported anecdotally or remain untold. Through investigating the lived experience of female paramedics, the study intends to explore how ambulance service culture in Australia has changed and continues to change, to facilitate the feminisation of the paramedic workforce. As there are no known studies on the lived experiences of Australian female paramedics through creative research methods the proposed study has the potential to generate new knowledge and fill a gap in paramedic literature.

Participation

Your participation will involve completion of an online questionnaire (single or multiple choice questions with some free-text options) that will take approximately 10-20 minutes of your time (depending on the length of any free-text responses that you would like to make).

Questions will cover topics such as:

- Do you feel that you were/have been able to clinically advance within your organisation to your full potential? (i.e. Paramedic to ACP; or ACP to CCP/ICP or Flight Paramedic, etc)
- Do you feel that you were/have been able to access opportunities to move into a managerial role within your organisation? (i.e. Officer in Charge/ Director/Executive Officer/etc)

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you are not obliged to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you will be unable to withdraw data collected about yourself after you have participated in the questionnaire.

If you do wish to withdraw from this project, please contact the Research Team (contact details at the top of this form).

Your decision whether you take part, do not take part, or take part and then withdraw, will in no way impact your current or future relationship with the University of Southern Queensland.

Expected benefits

It is expected that this project may benefit future female paramedics by informing both industry and the education sector which may benefit the paramedic profession. It may directly benefit you by enabling you to share your lived experiences in the field of paramedicine.

Following survey completion, participants will receive the opportunity to participate in a face-to-face interview including a creative works component contributing to the study. Participants who consent to an interview by submitting their contact email address will be contacted by the principal researcher and provided more information about the interview process. Participation is voluntary and all participants will be given a pseudonym to ensure their responses remain private and confidential.

Risks

Participants are asked to complete a survey which is expected to take approximately 20 minutes to complete. As paramedics are required to complete 30 hours of CPD as part of their professional registration, this study poses no greater risks than day-to-day living activities associated with being a paramedic. However, the researchers acknowledge that some participants may be prompted to think of their experiences as a female paramedic, which could cause some level of psychological discomfort.

Sometimes thinking about the sorts of issues raised in the interview can create some uncomfortable or distressing feelings. If you need to talk to someone about this immediately, please contact Lifeline (available 24/7) on 13 11 14, or Beyond Blue (available 24/7) on 1300 22 4636, webchat and email (email response provided within 24 hours). You may also wish to consider consulting your General Practitioner, Psychologist, or Counsellor for additional support.

Privacy and confidentiality

All comments and responses are confidential unless required by law.

The names of individual persons are not required in any of the responses, unless you opt to be contacted for a face-to-face interview. Participants can use a pseudonym but will be required to provide a valid email address so that the principal researcher can contact them regarding the interview process.

Please note that non-identifiable data from this project may be used as comparative data in future projects or stored on secure database for secondary analysis.

Research outcomes from this project will be published in peer-reviewed literature (including only non-identifiable participant information).

Any data collected as a part of this project will be stored securely, as per University of Southern Queensland's [Research Data and Primary Materials Management Procedure](#).

Consent to participate

Clicking on the 'Submit' button at the conclusion of the questionnaire is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this questionnaire element of the research project.

Questions

Please refer to the Research team contact details at the top of the form to have any questions answered or to request further information about this project.

Concerns or complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the project, you may contact the University of Southern Queensland, Manager of Research Integrity and Ethics on +61 7 4631 1839 or email researchintegrity@usq.edu.au. The Manager of Research Integrity and Ethics is not connected with the research project and can address your concern in an unbiased manner.

Thank you for taking the time to help with this research project. Please keep this document for your information.