

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 31628

Project title: Exploring workers' perceptions of fatigue calculators in the paramedicine industry.

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

The aim of this research is to understand the perceived benefits, strengths and weaknesses of a fatigue tool in addition to fatigue education and training within paramedical workplaces. It has been well documented that paramedics experience high levels of fatigue due to a variety of factors however methods of obtaining fatigue data (due to duty of care to employee) may be outdated. If paramedics are not well-rested, patient care can be affected which could result in poor outcomes for patients. Thus, appropriate fatigue management is paramount to individual practitioners, employers and patients.

By participating in this study, you will be helping to create a knowledge base for potential future policy/procedure development. This study will ask participants to complete one (1) online survey, which should take 15-20 minute, with the option of participating in a future focus group.

Why were you chosen for this research?

Paramedics who are registered through the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are eligible to participate in this study. We are interested in your experience of fatigue in the workplace.

Eligibility

You will be eligible for the study if you meet the following criteria:

- >18 years of age
- Registered with AHPRA as a Paramedic

Source of funding

No funding has been provided for this research project.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Paramedics will be provided with this explanatory statement and an electronic consent form prior to participation. Demographic data and any further research information will not be collected until a 'box' has been ticked indicating consent has been given by participants through Qualtrics, the online survey provider. Research participants will be able to withdraw at any stage without reprisal or questions.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

The study has the potential to highlight benefits, strengths and weaknesses of fatigue devices within the paramedicine industry. It is hoped this data will assist to ensure best practice is utilised in relation to fatigue management and mitigation.

Inconvenience is the only foreseeable risk of harm to participating paramedics in this study – the 15-20 minutes of time required to complete the questionnaire. There is no foreseeable risk of psychological harm from this research project, however it is possible paramedics may have seen or experienced fatigue-related trauma that participating in this study could recall. The researchers encourage paramedics to contact their workplaces Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) as required, or any other counselling services including lifeline.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality and privacy of participants will be maintained unless governed by law. Anonymity is guaranteed as no personal/ identifying information will be collected during the questionnaire. If participants would like to participate in the optional focus group, at the culmination of the survey a link directing them to a second Qualtrics survey will be provided where they can list their email address – such that the email address is not attached to their questionnaire responses.

All data will be stored on a central research laptop owned by the head researcher that will be password protected and locked in an office at all times.

Findings from the study may be published in reports, peer reviewed journals and presented at conferences, but all data will be reported on an aggregated level, and therefore unable to be traced back to individual participants.

Storage of data

Data will be stored on a confidential online platform called Lab Archives. Any physical documents will be scanned and uploaded to the site prior to shredding. The key research team will be the only people to have access to this studies account. Data shall be kept for five years after publication, then deleted from the online archive.

Use of data for other purposes

It is unlikely that this data will be used for any other purposes other than the study mentioned above. However, if results suggest or warrant further investigation then de-identified data may be used again – subject to a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval.

Results

The research report results from the study should be available about two-three months after participating, however submission and acceptance to a journal can often take longer. If you would like a copy of the final research report, you will be provided with an opportunity to opt-in by giving your email address to the head researcher and a copy will be emailed out after publication.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Room 111, Chancellery Building D,

26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus

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Thank you,

A/Prof Kelly-Ann Bowles and Matthew Ferris