

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 47016

Project title: Assessment and rehabilitation of community engagement for survivors of stroke: A national survey of clinical practice.

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You are invited to participate in a research study examining the practices and beliefs that allied health clinicians hold about community engagement rehabilitation therapies for survivors of stroke. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether to take part. If you want to learn more about this project, please contact us at the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

This is a supervised student research project and will form part of the requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

What does the research involve?

This study aims to understand allied health clinician's current practices and perspectives for providing rehabilitation interventions for survivors of stroke. This includes interventions to improve community engagement such as leisure, recreation, and exercise participation. This survey is designed to gather information about clinician perceptions of the importance of providing intervention for community engagement following stroke, their confidence in delivering these interventions, and to understand what assessments and interventions are currently being used in clinical practice. The findings from this study will help the research team to design a rehabilitation intervention to improve community engagement for survivors of stroke.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will answer some questions about your assessment and intervention practices. You will also rate your beliefs and provide opinions regarding assessments, interventions, and the importance of community engagement. There will also be questions asking for demographic information such as your discipline, number of years of practice, and qualifications.

The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. We are inviting all allied health professionals who provide stroke rehabilitation in Australian healthcare services. To take part in this study you must be an allied health professional and have delivered stroke rehabilitation intervention/s within the past 6 months. The survey is only available in English.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

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. By clicking the "Next →" button to commence the survey, you are providing consent to participate.

You can change your mind at any time and stop completing the survey before submitting without consequences. As the project involves an anonymous questionnaire, we are not able to withdraw your responses after you submit them.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

There are no known risks or discomforts associated with participating. However, there is a small risk you may become upset when you think about your work with people with stroke. All staff working in Australian public health services have access to an Employment Assistance Program. You may also telephone Beyond Blue (1300 224 636) or Lifeline (13 11 14). There are no specific benefits associated with participating.

Confidentiality and storage of data

The data collected in this study are completely anonymous. No personally identifiable information will be collected and the information you choose to provide in this study cannot be connected back to you. The online questionnaire will collect and store your anonymous answers in Qualtrics (a secure database). Questionnaire data will be stored for at least 5 years on secure Monash University servers accessible only to members of the research team. As your data is anonymous, your data cannot be withdrawn once the questionnaire has been submitted. Nor will it be possible to identify you or your service from the aggregated (combined) results. The anonymous research data collected for this study will form part of a thesis and may be published in peer-reviewed journal/s or presented at professional conference/s at a later date.

Results

A summary of the results will be available in late 2025. Please provide your contact details at the end of the survey if you would like to receive a copy. It is anticipated that the results of this study will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums, likely in combination with other studies which will together form an intervention design study.

Questions

If you have any questions or comments about this study, you may contact the researcher: Prof Natasha Lannin, at 0417135153 or natasha.lannin@monash.edu

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)
Office of Research Ethics and Integrity
Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus
Monash University VIC 3800
Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu

Consent

- I have read and understand the above information, and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction
- I certify that I am 18 years or older
- To preserve anonymity, I understand that no name or signature is required of me to give consent
- By activating the “Next →” button to start the survey, I indicate my willingness to voluntarily take part in this study and consent for the information I provide to be summarised with the other respondents.