

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **General practitioners' views and experiences about access to reablement or rehabilitation services for people with dementia**

**Project ID: 37243**

**Project title: General practitioners' views and experiences about access to reablement or rehabilitation services for people with dementia**

**Chief Investigator's name:** Dr Angel Lee

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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 researcher via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

#### **What does the research involve?**

General practitioners are the primary source of health care contacts and referral for reablement or rehabilitation services for the community e.g. allied health therapies. Reablement or rehabilitation is beneficial for people with dementia in optimising their independence and well-being.

The aim of the project is to explore the views and experiences amongst general practitioners about access to reablement or rehabilitation e.g. allied health therapies for people with dementia and any strategies they have used to address barriers to accessing these services.

You are invited to participate in the study. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to attend a once-off individual interview of approximately 30 minutes in duration. The interview can be conducted online (via Zoom or by phone) or face-to-face at the general practitioner's room at a mutually convenient time.

Participation in the interview will be voluntary. General practitioners will be provided with an Explanatory Statement and Consent Form before the interview. This will provide the opportunity for questions to be asked by general practitioners, and to be answered. Written consent will be gained before the interview takes place.

The interview will be audio recorded (irrespective of whether the interview is face-to-face, by telephone, or by video conference). The interview will follow a semi-structured interview schedule informed by a

model of patient-centred access to health care, e.g. the barriers to access, the availability or suitability of reablement or rehabilitation services for people with dementia or knowledge and skills of allied health professionals in providing these services. The time frame of this study is March to June 2023.

### **Why were you chosen for this research?**

You have decided to participate in the interview from the invitation sent to you and/or your practice or through promotion via the Primary Health Networks (PHNs). You will attend a once-off interview of approximately 30 minutes. The interview will be conducted by a researcher who is not a general practitioner, and not affiliated with your practice or the PHNs.

To address Covid-safety and the restrictions that may be in force at the time, the interview will be completed online if lock-down restrictions are in place or participants are infected with Covid. For interviews conducted face-to-face, social distancing will be used. In addition, face masks and hand sanitisers will be provided by the researcher for participants to use.

### **Source of funding**

This research is funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Participation in this research is voluntary. You will sign the consent form prior to the interview. This indicates you have given informed consent to participate in the interview and have the interview audio recorded for analysis. Whether you decide to participate or not will not be made known to anyone.

You may withdraw from participation in the interview at any time by notifying the Chief Investigator as soon as possible. There will be no follow-up by the research team or your general practice/Primary Health Networks (PHNs) from your withdrawal. There will be no implications of withdrawal or follow-up made.

The information that was collected from you up to the time you withdraw from the interview will be used for the study and cannot be withdrawn.

### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

There will be no direct benefit to you as a result of the interview. However, your experiences and views will help us understand your role in referring people with dementia to reablement or rehabilitation services and the barriers/enablers you perceive in accessing these services for people with dementia. This may help to inform future strategies to improve access to reablement or rehabilitation for people with dementia. It may also help you reflect on your practice for people with dementia.

There is a slight chance that you may feel uncomfortable as answering questions about your current practice may cause a feeling of being judged of having not done enough. You can ask to pause the interview until you are ready or terminate the interview at any time during the interview.

### **Services on offer if adversely affected**

If you become distressed as a result of your participation in the interview, the researcher can give some "time out" for you during the interview and you will not be compelled to talk if you do not wish to. You will be given the option to withdraw from the interview if you wish to.

The researcher will be able to direct you for counselling services or other appropriate support. Alternatively, you may consult your GP for counselling services or other appropriate support.

### **Payment**

There are no costs associated with participating in the interview. A \$150 gift card will be provided to each participant after the interview as a thank you gift. This is not contingent on you having to complete the entire interview.

### **Confidentiality**

The audio files will be sent to a reputable transcription company with secure systems for transcribing verbatim. Any information obtained in the interview that may identify you will be de-identified. The transcription company will identify interviewees by a code rather than by name. Interviewees will be asked not to name third parties on recordings without their prior consent. Any journal publications or conference papers will only contain results from responses that are grouped or individual response de-identified.

### **Storage of data**

*Audio files from interviews.* Once the study is completed, the audio files will be destroyed. The storage and the destruction of data will adhere to Monash University regulations.

*Hard copy of field notes.* Once the study is completed, any field notes will be destroyed. The storage and the destruction of the hard copies will adhere to Monash University regulations.

*Soft copy of data files.* Access to the datasets will be restricted to the chief researcher and research staff who have log-on and a secure password to the data files. The on-line data files will be archived and stored in Monash University password protected system for a period of 7 years. After this time, the data will be destroyed. The storage and the destruction of data will adhere to Monash University regulations.

### **Use of data for other purposes**

Data from the interview may be used in future projects if you consent to this, where ethics approval has been granted.

### **Results**

This will be made available by research publications and/or conference presentations for the scientific or clinical community. A plain language summary (de-identified) will be provided on the Monash University NCHA website and forwarded to any participant requesting a copy.

## **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.

Angel Lee

**Chief Investigator's name**