

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Registered Nurses

Project ID: 14303

Project title: Nurse initiated environmental sustainability interventions in acute hospitals.

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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 purpose of this study is to identify nurse initiated environmental sustainability interventions. Climate change is known to have significant detrimental effects to human health, including an increase in the transmission of vector-borne diseases, extreme weather events, poorer air quality, food insecurity, water scarcity, and forced migration. These effects to human health are felt more severely in lower-income countries with limited capacity to adapt to changing conditions. In 2015, The Lancet declared climate change as a 'public health emergency'. Paradoxically, the healthcare industry worldwide is a significant contributor to waste production and greenhouse gas emissions, and uses vast amounts of energy and water, that contribute to climate change. Nurses internationally are known to identify with this problem and implement a number of interventions to mitigate emissions and reduce the impact of health care on the environment. This study aims to identify what nurses' say about their involvement in these activities in acute Australian hospital settings. The findings of this research will be used to improve current knowledge of nurse initiated environmental sustainability interventions, strengthen the enablers and address the barriers to implementing interventions, and to identify what nurses say about their impact.

Participants of this study will be asked to answer 10 questions relating to implementing environmental sustainability interventions. This interview is estimated to take 50 minutes and will be audio recorded with your permission.

Why were you selected to participate in this research?

Nurses were invited to participate in this research project as they make up a large percentage of the healthcare workforce, are well-represented in all levels of hospital governance and management. Nurses are involved in ordering, using and disposing of health care products and consumables. They are therefore in a prime position to identify poor environmental sustainability practices and implement practical interventions to address them.

You are invited to participate in this research project as you are a Nurse who has been identified by a peer as having implemented environmental sustainability interventions in your workplace. Your contact details were obtained from them.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part, and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project up until the point of data analysis. Should you wish to withdraw from the study after the interview, please notify a member of the research team.

If you do decide to take part, please read and sign and the attached Consent Form. The research team will retain an electronic copy of your consent, and you will be given an electronic copy to keep.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

We cannot guarantee that you will receive benefits from participating in this research. However, some participants may experience possible benefits, such as increased insight into environmental sustainability interventions, or they may gain personal satisfaction from participating in research. By participating in this research, you can assist to identify practical environmental sustainability interventions, which may in turn enable other healthcare professionals to contribute to this area, as well contributing to waste reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and identifying future research needs in this area.

This research project is low risk, with negligible risk to participants. Participation in this research may inconvenience you, by requiring your spare time to participate in the interview.

Confidentiality

All participants in this research will be de-identified in all published forms. No associations will be made with the organisation by which the participant is employed.

Where quotes are used verbatim, participants will be assigned pseudonyms. The research team will undertake all transcription of interviews.

Storage of data

Interview responses will be stored in electronic format in a secure folder on the Monash University Lab Archive system that can be accessed only by the research team. All paper copy data will be stored in Monash University Nursing and Midwifery archives. Data will be securely stored for a minimum of five years, in accordance with research requirements. After it is no longer required, all data will be destroyed in accordance with Monash University policy.

Results

Results will be made available to participants and peers in the initial form of an Honours thesis, a journal article, published in a peer reviewed journal and/ or presented at conferences in the Nursing and Midwifery and/ or Environmental Sustainability sector.

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
Research Office
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052 Email: muhrec@monash.edu Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you

Patricia Schwerdtle and Megan Mannes