

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE: Family Involvement in hearing rehabilitation: Improving the health and well-being of the Defence community

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:

Dr. Nerina Scarinci
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
The University of Queensland

CO-INVESTIGATORS:

Dr. Carly Meyer	The University of Queensland
Professor Louise Hickson	The University of Queensland
Dr. Christopher Lind	Flinders University
Dr. Kyla Hudson	The University of Queensland

FUNDING:

This study is funded by the Defence Health Foundation. A total amount of \$34,946 (+GST) in funding has been provided for the study.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to learn more about what we can do to help improve hearing services for ex-Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families. We want to improve the way we help ex-serving ADF members with hearing loss as well as support their families, carers or friends.

WHAT WOULD MY ROLE IN THE STUDY INVOLVE?

You will be asked to participate in a group discussion about hearing loss and hearing services with other members of your family, friends or carers. This discussion will take place at your home or another convenient location and is likely to last 1-2 hours. We will ask you to nominate a family member (one or more), or friend or carer you

want to be part of the discussion. The discussion will be video and audio recorded.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

It is important for researchers to understand how hearing services could be improved for ex-ADF members. You may not see any benefit from being a part of the study right now but it is hoped that the results will increase our understanding of how to treat hearing loss the best way possible. A summary of the findings of this study will be available if you are interested.

There are no major risks associated with participating in this study. If you experience any emotional distress as a result of discussing your family member or friend's hearing loss the researcher will encourage you to consult support services for further advice.

Participation in the study is voluntary. Therefore, you do not have to participate. It is your choice.

All information you provide us will be completely confidential and any personal details, which may identify you in any way, will not be passed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Your answers will not in any way affect any pension, benefits or health services which you are entitled to from DVA, or to which you may become entitled in the future. If you wish, you can discontinue your participation in this study at any time.

Saying no will not affect your relationship with The University of Queensland, Australian Hearing or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. If you agree to participate and then change your mind you have the right to have your records removed from the study.

HOW WILL MY PRIVACY BE MAINTAINED?

Your privacy while being a part of this study will be respected. All information (including any audio/video recordings) about will be

kept in a locked filing cabinet at The University of Queensland. No personal details will be published.

WHO HAS APPROVED AND WILL MONITOR THIS STUDY?

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. This study has also been given approval by the Department of Veterans Affairs' Human Research Ethics Committee. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contact details below), if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on 3365 3924.

If you have any additional questions, please contact project staff member, Dr. Kyla Hudson:

Telephone: 3346 7489

Email: k.hudson@uq.edu.au

Write to:

Dr. Kyla Hudson
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
The University of Queensland
ST LUCIA QLD 4072