

## **Participant Information Sheet – Practice nurses (Interviews)**

**Project Title:** Promoting oral healthcare among women in perimenopause/menopause:  
A mixed methods study to inform intervention strategies.

### **Project Summary:**

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Namitha Thomas, Ph.D. student at the Australian Centre for Integration of Oral Health (ACIOH), School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University, under the supervision of Prof Ajesh George, Prof Kath Peters, Dr. Kate O'Reilly, and Dr. Mariana S Sousa. This interview is part of a larger study investigating the knowledge attitudes and practices of women in perimenopause/menopause in the management of oral health and identifying barriers and facilitators in this area.

### **How is the study being paid for?**

This project is being undertaken as part of a Ph.D. at WSU and will be supported by the Australian Government Research Training program stipend Scholarship (Doctor of Philosophy) through Western Sydney University. In addition, this project is receiving in-kind support from ACIOH.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

If you agree to be involved in this project, you will be asked to participate in an interview to help us understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of healthcare providers in managing the oral health of women in perimenopause/menopause and to

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Participant Information Sheet

identify barriers and facilitators in this area. If you choose to participate in the interview, it will be conducted by the chief investigator and any individually identifying information will be removed prior to sharing the transcript with the supervisory team.

**How much of my time will I need to give?**

It is anticipated that the interview will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. You will receive a Coles/Woolworths voucher as a reimbursement for your time for participating.

**What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?**

The information gathered from the interview helps in understanding the oral health knowledge, attitudes, and practices of healthcare providers in managing women in perimenopause/menopause. It also will identify their barriers and facilitators in the delivery of oral healthcare, acceptability and feasibility of healthcare providers to provide oral health promotion. Beyond this, there will be no immediate benefit to the community.

**Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?**

There is no risk of financial or physical harm and nil use of invasive procedures in this research project. However, there is a potential risk that completing the interviews could cause some emotional distress in some participants due to recalling personal experiences relating to the cessation of menstruation and reproduction and various oral health concerns. If you feel any kind of distress during the interview, you will be provided with appropriate help and free counseling services which are available [here](#). You can also withdraw from the interview anytime in case of discomfort.

**How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?**

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that the participant cannot be identified. Transcripts from the audio-taped interviews will be de-identified prior to the data being analysed. Findings from the study will be used as part of the Chief Investigator's thesis and may be submitted for publication, however, individuals will not be identifiable. If you wish to receive information about the study findings, you can contact the research team (contact emails below) to request a copy.

**Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?**

No. Your data will be used as per Western Sydney University's Open Access Policy. This means that data collected from this study can be made available online and worldwide in perpetuity.

**Can I withdraw from the study?**

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving reason. If you participate in an interview and choose to withdraw after transcripts have been de-identified, data collected from you prior to withdrawal may not be able to be deleted and may be used for the purpose of this project.

**Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the Chief

Investigator's contact details. They can contact the Chief Investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

### **What if I require further information?**

Please contact Namitha Thomas should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate.

Namitha Thomas (Chief investigator)

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### **Privacy Notice**

Western Sydney University staff and students conduct research that may require the collection of personal and/or health information from research participants.

The University's Privacy Policy and Privacy Management Plan set out how the University collects, holds, uses and discloses personal or health information. Further details about the use and disclosure of this information can be found on the [Privacy at Western Sydney webpage](#).

### **What if I have a complaint?**

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may email the Ethics Committee through Research Services: [humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au).

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep, and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H15712.

### **Explanation of Consent**

#### **What will happen to my information if I agree to it being used in other projects?**

Thank you for considering being a participant in a university research project. The researchers are asking that you agree to supply your information (data) for use in this project and to also agree to allow the data to potentially be used in future research projects.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

You have been asked to agree to Extended consent.

### **What does this mean?**

When you agree to extended consent, it means that you agree that your data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project
- in the same general area of this research.

The researchers will allow this data to be used by all research that are extension of this project, closely related or in the same general area of this project.

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at the University in its data repository and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use will not have information in it that makes you identifiable. The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

The researchers want to keep the data for five years for possible re-use. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>