
INFORMATION SHEET

Title: End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC)

The roles and responsibilities of allied health professionals providing palliative care for older Australians in residential and community aged care

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Description of the study:

Flinders University is undertaking a study which is part of the project entitled 'End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC)'. This is a study of allied health practitioners working with older Australians in the community setting. The purpose is to gauge their understanding of palliative care, and to determine the practice needs required to improve quality of care for people supported in residential and community aged care. This project is supported by the ELDAC Project Team in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Purpose of the study:

This project aims to find out your role in caring for older Australians with palliative care needs within the community. This will also help us identify any areas that need to be developed that would assist your work caring for older Australians with palliative care needs within the community.

What will I be asked to do?

You are invited to complete an online survey. Participation in the survey is voluntary. This should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. You do not have to answer any question that you don't want to, and you are free to withdraw at any time without prejudice.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

You may not directly benefit from participation however the sharing of your experiences will assist in the improvement of the service delivered by ELDAC. It will help us identify any areas that need to be developed to assist the allied health workforce when caring for older Australians with palliative care needs.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

Your participation is anonymous. All survey data collected from you will be treated as strictly confidential and kept securely on the Flinders University server with access limited to the research team. No participant will be individually identifiable in any report or publication. It is a requirement that ELDAC share data collected from you with an external evaluator enlisted by the Australian Government Department of Health. This data however will be used to evaluate the program only - not the research, and any personal information that could identify you (i.e., contact information or other direct identifiers) will be removed before being shared with the auditor.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

There are some questions in the survey relating to palliative aged care that may stir up some emotions. If for any reason you feel emotional discomfort as a result of your participation, you can contact free telephone counselling services such as Beyond Blue (1300 22 46 36) or Lifeline (13 11 14). Alternatively, participants may wish to contact their organisation's Employee Assistance Program provider (if available). Another foreseeable risk is the inconvenience of participating in the survey. If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the researcher.

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is voluntary. You may refuse to answer any questions and you are free to withdraw from the survey at any time without effect or consequences (and with or without submitting your responses to the researchers). Completion of the survey indicates that you have read the above information and you voluntarily agree to participate. You do not need to complete a formal consent form. However, completing the survey and submitting your responses will be taken as your consent to participate.

How will I receive feedback?

On project completion the outcomes of the project will be summarised on the ELDAC website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 8508). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by e-mail human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au