



Participant Information Sheet – General (Extended) (Nursing Educators)

Project Title: Review of the Australian Nurse Teacher Professional Competency Standards (EVOLUTIONS)

Project Summary:

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by a group of university and hospital nursing educators. The team is led by Dr Christine Taylor from Western Sydney University (who is also a member of the Australian Nurse Teachers' Society's executive committee) and the team Dr Julie Shaw, Swinburne University of Technology; Ms Creina Mitchell, Griffith University; Ms Belinda Foley, Northern NSW Local Health District; and Ms Hellen Kaneko, Queensland Digital Academy. The aim of this research project is to review the current Australian Nurse Teacher Professional Competency Standards (the 'Standards') for nursing educator practice.

A revised version of the Standards resulting from a Delphi study of expert opinion will be developed and you are asked to comment on the relevance and feasibility of the revised Standards to nursing educator practice, which will assist validating the revised Standards.

In Australia it has been 12 years since our nurse teacher professional competency standards were last reviewed, and there is a need to examine their relevance given the changing landscape of nurse education, locally and globally. For example, changes to nursing practice and education such as an increased use of remote/online learning strategies and technology, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is timely to consider whether the current Australian standards of practice for nursing educators continue to meet the changing needs of the profession and current health issues.

How is the study being paid for?

A small grant has been awarded to the research team from the Australian Nurse Teachers' Society, as well as the researchers' own time and commitment to this project.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to participate in a focus group, either via Zoom (by an invitation post to Australian Nurse Teachers' Society's members) or face-to-face (by an invitation to all conference delegates at the 2023 National Nurse Educators' Conference [NNEC]), where you will be asked to share your opinions and comments related to the revised Australian Nurse Teacher Professional Standards of practice for nursing educators. The groups will be facilitated by one of the research team and each group is expected to consist of 8-10 participants. You will also be asked to complete a short survey for some background information before the focus group, and to complete a written consent form to allow the use of de-identified responses in future publications and/or conference presentations.

How much of my time will I need to give?

It is expected that the group may take 45-60 minutes to complete, depending on the extent of the group discussion. The short survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

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

No reimbursements will be offered. However, you may feel a positive benefit by contributing your expertise to the development of professional standards for nursing educators. The outcomes will benefit all Australian nursing educators as a revised set of standards for educational practice will be available free of charge on the Society's website, which is also available to nurses from any country. The standards can be used for research, to guide practice and monitor performance.



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

Participating in the focus group may cause some inconvenience, time, and discomfort during the group. However, attendance at the group is voluntary and the group facilitators are experienced in managing group interactions to ensure respectful and safe discussions and confidentiality will be expected from group members. The focus groups will be audio-recorded, however the recording will be de-identified before analysis and destroyed later according to the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines.

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 you cannot be identified as all the information and responses you give us will be de-identified early in the project.

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

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. However, your de-identified data may be used in other related projects for a period of time after the completion of this project, such as projects to validate this study's findings.

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 before attending the focus group by emailing the chief investigator or not attend the group. Once in the focus group it is probable that we cannot identify your data to delete it from the audio transcript.

What if I require further information?

Please contact the chief investigator, Dr Christine Taylor, should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate.

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What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome. This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H15400.

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](#).