



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Project ID:** MUHREC project ID: **45572**

**Project title:** Acute Hospital Nurses Attitudes and Beliefs of Wound Care: a cross-sectional survey

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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 email addresses listed above.

This is a student research project, being conducted as part of the Master of Wound Care, by Registered Nurse Holly Ferguson, under the supervision of senior lecturer of Master of Wound Care, Dr Peta Tehan.

### What does the research involve?

The aim of the study is to explore the attitudes and beliefs of Australian acute hospital nurses towards wound care. To gain insights into how the Australian acute hospital nurse conceptualises their role in wound care and to identify the barriers and facilitators to the provision of wound care and identify any new areas for research or improvements in practice.

This is an anonymous, electronic survey, estimated to take 20 minutes. The survey has two sections. The demographic section will collect information such as age, qualifications and area of practice to contextualise the answers to the second section. The demographic section is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete.

The second section will capture the acute nurses' attitudes and beliefs to wound care and estimated to take 17 minutes. It will be divided into five categories of responsibility, prioritisation, interest, confidence and barriers and facilitators. Each category will use a Likert scale, seeking a response of Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree. There will also be a free text options for each section to allow for participants to elaborate on their answers if they choose to do so.

### Inclusion criteria

- Australian Registered Nurses or Enrolled nurses who are working in the Acute hospital setting, which can be tertiary or secondary centres, in the remote, rural, regional or city settings.

### Exclusion criteria:

- Student nurses, Registered Undergraduate Students of Nursing, personal care assistants
- RNs or ENs working predominantly in community, Residential age care facilities, primary care or outpatient settings. Or who are practicing in countries other than Australia
- Other health care professionals such as physicians, surgeons, allied health

### **Why were you invited for this research?**

You are invited to participate in this project as you are part of the professional and social media network of registered or enrolled nurses of the researchers or have membership with Wounds Australia or the Australian College of Nursing. As invitations were sent via social media platforms of LinkedIn and Facebook, and shared by Wounds Australia and the Australian College of Nursing, the research team does not have your contact details. For those with professional links to the researchers your response will be anonymous and deidentified.

### **Source of funding**

The Master of Wound Care course will provide 500 dollars funding for the ten 50 dollar vouchers as incentive for participation. There are no other external sources of funding such as sponsors, and no known conflict of interest of researchers.

### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Written informed consent will be obtained after considering this explanatory statement. This will be done by selecting the “yes” box to indicate consent, followed by a digital signature Qualtrics® platform. Please be aware, that as this is an anonymous questionnaire and so it is not possible to withdraw data once the survey has been fully completed and submitted.

### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

Acute and chronic wounds pose a significant physical, psychological, functional, social and economic burdens to the person, their families and society. Acute nurses, such as yourself, are the main profession that manages wounds in the acute hospital setting and so it is important to investigate how you perceive your role in doing so.

By sharing your insights and beliefs of providing wound care, you will help to address the existing knowledge gap in the literature regarding attitudes and beliefs towards wound care of acute hospital nurses, and hopefully identify possible barriers and facilitators to the provision of wound care in the Australian acute hospital setting and identify possible new areas for research and improvements in practice.

### **Payment**

The Master of Wound Care course will provide 500 dollars funding for vouchers for the ten 50 dollar vouchers as incentive for participation. After completing the entirety of the study survey, there will be a link to a separate survey for participants to enter their email address if they would like to take part in the draw for the gift voucher. Winners will be selected randomly and contacted by email. This voucher survey will not be linked to the study survey, and so if you choose to enter the voucher draw, your responses in the study survey will not be able to be identified by your email address.

## **Confidentiality**

We will not be collecting any identifying information for the purposes of the study survey. As stated above, if you enter the draw for the gift vouchers after finishing the study survey, you can follow a link to a separate voucher survey where you can choose to enter your email address to go into the draw. Your email address will not be linked to the study survey and will not identify you and your response to the study survey. In the study survey, the demographic information will be general and collected to assist with statistical analysis of the attitudes and beliefs information only.

## **Storage of data**

Data collected in the Qualtrics survey will be stored in the Monash Qualtrics server, until the survey is closed. Once the survey is closed, data will be exported in an excel file and stored on the primary investigator Dr Peta Tehan's Monash OneDrive account, with only the research team having access. Data will be stored in line with privacy policy, and deleted after 5 years (October, 2029).

## **Use of data for other purposes**

The primary use of the data is for this Master of Wound care research project. The data may be published in a journal article and shared at conferences, while aggregate de-identified data may be used for other projects only where ethics approval has been granted.

## **Results**

The information will be summarised in a manuscript for the purpose of completing the MAP5010 Research Project unit for the Master of Wound Care. A lay summary copy of this information can be made available after August 2025, by contacting the researchers email addresses at the top of this explanation statement.

## **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)  
Office of Research Ethics and Integrity  
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26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
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