Renewal of registered nursing ID curriculum: building capacity in the nursing workforce to meet the complex health care needs of people with an intellectual disability

INITIATIVE BETWEEN: UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY AND NSW DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES, AGEING, DISABILITY & HOME CARE (ADHC)

You are invited to participate in a 15 minute interview as part of a national audit of the intellectual disability content in undergraduate registered nursing curricula.

What is the purpose of the project?
Just over half a million Australians have an intellectual and compared to the general population they experience a disproportionately high burden of physical and mental disorders, and poorer health outcomes. Despite the complexity of their health care needs, people with an intellectual experience poorer access to treatment of both physical and mental health problems and lower rates of participation in preventative health initiatives.

The nursing workforce plays an important role in the delivery of health care services to be people with an intellectual disability. However, the ability of the nursing workforce to deliver appropriate and timely health care to this population is hindered by the lack of education in the area of intellectual disability physical and mental health.

Currently there is a dearth of research on the preparedness of registered nursing graduates to deliver quality care to people with an intellectual disability. Through this national audit we will learn about the nature and amount of intellectual disability physical and mental health content that is currently delivered to undergraduate registered nursing students across Australia. We also seek to identify specific educational resources in this area and to establish contact with leaders in intellectual disability health education in Australian nursing schools.

The outcomes of this study will provide vital baseline information on the current status of intellectual disability content in undergraduate registered nursing curriculum and will help to guide further research and initiatives to improve the inequitable health status of people with an intellectual disability.

Why have I been approached to participate in this project?
We have approached you in your capacity as the Dean of an Australian nursing school which has been approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to deliver a registered nursing program.

What will participation in the project require?
If you or a colleague whom you appoint decides to participate, we will require you/or the person you appoint to participate in a brief interview. If you prefer, you can provide answers to the questions in written format instead of undertaking a telephone interview. The interview will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will ask about the undergraduate registered nursing courses that
your institution delivers, current patterns of student enrolment and the nature and amount of intellectual disability content in undergraduate curriculum and clinical placements. It will also provide an opportunity for you to identify potential participants from within your nursing school to complete the second phase of this project, an online audit of intellectual disability content in undergraduate nursing curriculum.

What about confidentiality and disclosure of information?
Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you and your institution will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission, except as required by law.

We plan to discuss the project results with Deans of all nursing school that deliver approved registered nursing programs as well as with the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery. We also plan to present and publish the results at relevant nursing and disability conferences and peer reviewed journals. In any discussion or publications, information will be provided in such a way that you and your institution cannot be identified.

All data will be stored in adherence to UNSW IT Security Standards & Guidelines policy. This will include the storage of paper based information in a dedicated, lockable cabinet. Electronic data will be stored on a server which requires authorisation to gain access.

Will I receive feedback regarding the outcome of this project?
Yes, all participants will be provided with a written summary of the key audit outcomes.

Your Consent
Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relationship with the University of New South Wales, Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University, the University Of Queensland, Southern Cross University or Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW.

Your consent to participate in this program will be implied if you complete the interview.

If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. You can withdraw your consent by contacting a member of the research team via email or telephone. These details are provided at the end of this letter.

What can I do if I have a complaint about the conduct of the project?
Complaints may be directed to the Ethics Secretariat, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY 2052 AUSTRALIA (phone 9385 4234, fax 9385 6648, email ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be investigated promptly and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Project Officer on (02) 9385 2208 or via email: IDhealth@unsw.edu.au.