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Participant Information Sheet

Preparing and supporting midwives to provide emergency maternal and neonatal care in rural and remote resource-limited settings

Researchers:

My name is Kristen Graham, and I am undertaking this research project for my Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the Australian National University (ANU). I am a midwife and registered nurse with experience working in Australia and rural Thailand, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. Additional research team members are my PhD supervisors, Dr Sam Colquhoun, Dr Christine LaBond, Dr Tambri Housen, Sr. Hlengiwe Mohale, and Professor Linda Sweet.

Project Title: Strengthening primary care midwives' preparedness and readiness for emergency maternal neonatal care in rural and remote resource-limited settings: providing evidence for policy, education and practice.

What is this research about?

We are looking at the needs and opportunities for preparing and supporting midwives working in rural and remote communities in resource-limited settings. The online interviews build on the findings from two surveys undertaken with midwives, educators, health service managers and Ministry of Health representatives. We will ask questions about:

- Primary care midwives' provision of emergency maternal and neonatal care
- training and support for midwives providing emergency maternal and neonatal care in rural and remote practice
- factors that help or hinder the quality of emergency maternal and neonatal care provided by rural and remote primary care midwives
- ways to better prepare and support midwives providing emergency maternal and neonatal care in rural and remote resource-limited settings

Who can participate?

You are welcome to participate if you are a:

1. fully qualified midwife or nurse-midwife who works in a rural or remote primary health OR
2. midwifery educator or health service manager who educates, supervises, or supports midwives and/or nurse-midwives working in rural or remote primary health clinics OR
3. Ministry of Health personnel who is responsible for developing or implementing policy related to rural primary care midwifery services

   AND

4. you work in a country that is classified as a low or middle-income or least developed country.
5. are able to complete the interview in English

   OR

6. you are an international or national leader or expert in midwifery or maternal and newborn health, with expertise in low and lower-middle income midwifery preparedness and readiness (i.e. example working with the United Nations, the International Confederation of Midwives, or with a non-governmental or research organisation).

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We hope to interview 10 midwives or nurse-midwives, 5 educators, 5 health service managers, 5 Ministry of Health representatives and 5 key leaders/experts.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate in the study, you will undertake an online interview with you on Zoom via your computer, tablet or smart mobile phone. I will first ask some brief questions about your professional background and work context. I will then ask about your experiences and perceptions related to the preparedness and readiness of primary care midwives providing maternal and neonatal emergency care in rural and remote settings. Finally, I will ask for your recommendations on priorities for strengthening primary care midwives' capacity to provide emergency maternal and neonatal care in rural and remote resource-constrained settings.

How long will the interview take?

The interview will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete.

What if I have trouble with my internet connection?

We will use a low bandwidth version of Zoom to reduce internet connection problems and turn off the video capacity if we encounter problems. If the interview cannot proceed due to internet connection issues, I will make alternative arrangements with you via email or WhatsApp for a new interview date or to arrange to conduct the interview by phone call.

How will my participation help?

You may not personally benefit from participating in this study; however, we expect that this research will help us better understand the needs of midwives working in rural and remote resource-limited settings and ways to better educate and support them. In addition, we hope our findings and recommendations will lead to positive policy, education, and practice changes, including better pre-service education, pre-deployment, ongoing professional training, and on-the-ground support.

Is my participation voluntary, and can I withdraw?

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any time before the presentation or submission of findings for publication and thesis submission.
You will be provided with an outline of the questions prior to your interview, and you can choose not to answer specific questions before or during the interview. Additional questions may be asked in response to your answers, which you may decline to answer if you wish. If you start the interview but cannot continue, you can request to stop or delay the interview at any time. Depending on your wishes, you can arrange an alternate time to complete the interview, request to submit your answers via email or withdraw from the study with the option to allow us to use the data already collected or delete the data completely.

Are there any risks to me?

We do not anticipate any risks to you in participating in this study. However, you may experience some emotional discomfort or stress if you share some challenging experiences working in rural and remote communities. If you do, we encourage you to discuss your feelings with someone you trust, such as a midwife or nurse colleague, supervisor, family member or doctor. If you need further support, your doctor, supervisor or colleague may be able to provide you with information about additional support services available to you. Support may also be available in your country through Befrienders Worldwide (https://www.befrienders.org) or Lifeline International https://lifeline-intl.com/our-network/. If you are unsure, please contact me at Kristen.Graham@anu.edu.au or Sam Colquhoun at Samantha.Colquhoun@anu.edu.au to arrange a Zoom or phone discussion of possible options.

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Confidentiality. Can the answers I give be linked back to me?

Confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows. We will not publish or present any identifying information about you. We may use pseudonyms or numerical identifiers for any written response quotes published in the research publications, thesis, summaries or presentations. With your consent, we may also identify your profession (e.g. midwife or midwifery educator) and the country or world region where you work to provide context for the quote. However, we will not provide any information we believe may inadvertently identify you.

In your interview, please do not say or do anything that could identify, harm or embarrass yourself or others
If you accidentally state your own name or the names of other people or organisations, the primary investigator will delete them from the resulting data transcripts before analysis.

How will we use the data?

Once we analyse the data, we will present the findings and recommendations in open-access journal articles; these will be freely available for you to read. The publications will be included in the final PhD thesis. Results may also be presented at Australian and international conferences. In addition, summaries of the study findings will be available for you to freely read on the study website (HERE) no later than six months after your interview. We may also use the data for later stages of the PhD study or related research studies.

How will we store the data?

We will initially store the original Zoom video/audio and transcript data as recordings on a secure ANU share drive accessible only to the research team. Copies will be backed up onto an ANU password-protected computer and hard drive. Once the study is completed, the data will be transferred to an ANU research drive for five years from the final publication date, and a copy will be retained on a password-protected hard drive by the principal researcher. At the end of the storage period, the data will be archived for possible use for future research projects by the principal researcher or research team.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting any personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

We use ANU-approved Zoom software for this study. The Zoom Privacy Statement is available at https://explore.zoom.us/en/privacy/ and contains information about personal data storage and privacy rights.

Ethics approval.

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2022/492). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au

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Where can I get some more information?

If you have any questions about the study or would like further information before deciding to participate, please feel welcome to contact one of the following members of the research team:

- Principal Researcher/PhD candidate: Kristen Graham at Kristen.Graham@anu.edu.au
- PhD Supervisor: Dr Samantha Colquhoun at Samantha.Colquhoun@anu.edu.au