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Participant Information Sheet (Midwives)

Online Survey: Preparing and supporting midwives working in rural & remote primary care clinics in 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, Associate Professor 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. In this survey we will ask you about:

- your training and ongoing support for rural and remote practice
- your confidence in providing basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care
- factors that help or hinder you in your rural and remote role

A similar survey will ask midwifery educators, health service managers and Ministry of Health Personnel about their experiences, perspectives and recommendations.

Who can participate?

You are welcome to participate if you are a:

1. fully qualified midwife or nurse-midwife
2. currently working in a rural or remote primary health clinic, AND
3. you work in a country that is classified as a low or middle-income or least developed country.
4. are able to complete the survey in English

We hope 500 midwives and nurse-midwives will participate in this survey.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate in the study, you will complete an online survey on your computer, tablet or smart mobile phone.

How long will the survey take?

The survey will take you about 10 minutes to complete.

What if I have trouble with my internet connection?

If you have trouble with your internet connection, the survey site will automatically save what you have completed, and you can return to complete it within two weeks. Alternatively, you can email me at Kristen.Graham@anu.edu.au, and I will send you a pdf version of the survey, which you can fill in on your computer, tablet or smart mobile phone, and return to me by email.

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How will my participation help?

You may not personally benefit from participating in this study; however, we expect this research will help us better understand the needs of midwives working in rural and remote resource-limited settings. In addition, we hope our findings and recommendations will lead to positive policy, education, and practice changes.

Is my participation voluntary, and can I withdraw?

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You can choose not to answer specific questions or sections of the survey, however please make sure you click through to the very end of the survey to ensure that your answers are included in the study. If you start the survey but cannot finish it, you can return to complete it online within two weeks. If you decide not to submit the survey in these two weeks, the system will automatically delete your survey, and we will not include it in the study. Once your survey is submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw your responses as we will not be collecting any identifying information to locate your specific survey to delete it.

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.

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

We will not collect any identifying information from you in the online survey - your answers will be completely anonymous, and only members of the research team will have access. Therefore, in your written answers, please do not write anything that could identify, harm or embarrass yourself or others. If you accidentally include your own name or the names of other people or organisations, the primary investigator will delete them from the resulting data before analysis.

At the end of your survey, you will be directed to a separate survey to ask if you would like to be considered for further participation in a later online interview or participatory workshop. If you would like to participate further, you can provide your contact details for later communications. Please be assured that we will not be able to connect this information to the answers from your original survey.

In this separate survey you will be asked if you would like to enter a draw for a $US75 Amazon gift voucher. To enter the draw, you are not obligated to participate any further in the study, but you will need to provide us with your contact details and consent to your name being published on the ANU study website if you are the winner (as required by the ACT *Lotteries Act 1964* – please see the guidelines here).

The draw will be conducted at the ANU campus, Canberra on the 4th December 2023 by Kristen Graham and Samantha Colquhoun. The winner will be randomly drawn using the electronic random draw function in the Microsoft Excel survey report file. The winner will be notified by email with the Amazon gift voucher details. After the draw we will delete your contact information from the survey and all survey report files, unless you are the winner of the draw, or have agreed to be contacted for further participation.

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If you submit your survey by email, the survey file will be saved with a unique number for us to upload your responses into the survey portal. Your email and any identifying information will then be deleted. If you submit a hard copy of your survey in person, the survey will be allocated a unique number for us to upload your responses into the survey portal, and once complete, the survey will be destroyed.

We may use pseudonyms or numerical identifiers for any written response quotes published in the research publications, thesis, summaries or presentations. We may also identify your profession (midwife or nurse-midwife) and the country or world region where you work to provide context for the quote. However, we will not use written quotes we believe may inadvertently identify you.

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 no later than six months after the survey has closed. We may also use the data for later stages of the PhD study or related research studies.

How will we store the data?

Data will be stored initially on the ANU secure survey system and then transferred and stored onto a secure ANU share drive accessible only to the research team. A copy will be backed up onto a ANU password-protected computer. 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.

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

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 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