

Examining physiotherapy services utilised by older Australians living in residential aged care facilities – clinician survey

Thank you for showing interest in this research project. This page provides detailed information about this study and the associated survey. Please take the time to read this information carefully and only proceed to the survey if you consent to being involved in this study (via tick box at bottom of this page).

Please click the ">>" button below to move to the next page. Should you wish to go back a page at any stage you can use the "<<" button.

What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study which is exploring the current status of physiotherapy services within the Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) sector. With substantially increasing numbers of Australian's aged 65 years and older in Australia, there is an increased demand on RACFs. Physiotherapists working in this sector have the skills and knowledge to assist with mobility and movement related dysfunctions, rehabilitation, pain management, fall and injury risk minimisation, individualised exercise prescription, incontinence management, and manual handling education.

Despite Physiotherapists being well placed to assist in the care needs of older Australian's, current government schemes only fund allied health services related to pain management. This includes massage, electrotherapy and other technical equipment which are not supported by strong literature as effective treatment for pain management.

This study hopes to survey clinicians and gain insight related to current physiotherapy practice in the RACF space. This project has the potential to impact on policy and practice to ensure effective and equitable physiotherapy is available to all older adults living in Australian RACFs. Non-identifiable, group results obtained from this study may also be used in future research that extends the work of this study.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by Dr Lindsey Brett & Professor Julia Hush from the Department of Health Professions at Macquarie University in collaboration with Dr Daniel Treacy from the Physiotherapy Department at Prince of Wales Hospital. Please note there will also be a research assistant and students from the Doctorate of Physiotherapy program at Macquarie University working on this project under the supervision of Dr Brett, Dr Treacy and Professor Hush.

What does the study involve?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short survey. In the survey, we will ask you to provide some basic non-identifiable information about yourself, your clinical experience within the RACF sector and current work practice. These questions will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and no further involvement is required as part of this project.

Will my responses remain confidential?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers listed on this study will have access to the information provided. The survey has been developed to ensure that personally identifiable information is not collected. This is to ensure participants are willing to provide honest feedback without concern of anonymity being compromised. All results from this

study will be consolidated and presented as group results, no individual data will be reported or used in potential future research that extends the work of this study.

Is participation in this study voluntary?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are not obligated to participate, and if you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw (abort the survey) at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence. Please note that due to the anonymous nature of data collected in this survey, the research team cannot identify your individual data once you have submitted your responses. You can review your data by toggling through the 'back' button of the survey, but once you hit 'submit' we unfortunately cannot identify and withdraw your responses.

Are there any benefits and/or risks to participating in this survey?

There is no individual benefit associated with involvement in this study. However, it is anticipated that this project will provide detailed information regarding the current scope of physiotherapy in RACF. This information hopes to further educate the wider physiotherapy community and demonstrate how the professions knowledge and skillset can be utilised beyond current practice.

Aside from the time-burden of completing the survey (approximately 10-15 minutes), there is no anticipated burden associated with involvement in this study.

Can I contact the researchers?

If you have any questions related to the survey, please contact a member of the research team:

Dr Lindsey Brett: lindsey.brett@mq.edu.au

Professor Julia Hush: julia.hush@mq.edu.au

Dr Daniel Treacy: daniel.treacy@health.nsw.gov.au

What if I have concerns or complaints?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Director, Research Ethics & Integrity (02 9850 7111; muhsc.ethics@mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

How to provide consent?

After reading the above document, if you are willing to proceed and consent to participate in the survey – please click the ">>" button below to complete the survey. If at any stage you would like to withdraw from the project, please abort the survey. Once again, many thanks for your time and interest in this project.