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CRICOS Provider No. 00114A

INFORMATION SHEET

(for emergency nurses and emergency doctors)

Title: South Australian emergency department (ED) clinical staff experiences of an extreme weather event

Researchers:

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Description of the study:

This project will use a survey tool to explore the experience of nurses and doctors who were working in South Australian emergency departments (ED) during extreme weather events of September and October 2016. Unfortunately employees of Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Health Service are not permitted to participate in this research.

Purpose of the study:

The purpose of the research is twofold and aimed at generating an understanding of how ED clinicians were impacted by the extreme weather events and how ED clinical staff can better prepare for future events. The objectives of the study are:

- Explore ED clinician's experience of an extreme event
- Identify factors that differentiate between a normal working day in the ED and working during an extreme event
- Identify areas of effective practice
- Identify knowledge and practice gaps

What will I be asked to do?

You are invited to complete a survey about your experience of working as a nurse or a doctor in a South Australian emergency department between September 28th and October 3rd 2016. The survey can be accessed online via [add link](#) and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Participation is confidential and anonymous. You will be asked to identify where you work, but organisations will be de-identified in the write up of the findings. Consent to participate is assumed to be given once you submit the survey.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

The sharing of your experiences will assist in understanding the experience of working in an extreme event. Furthermore the information you provide will be useful in identifying knowledge and practice gaps that may inform the disaster preparedness needs of emergency department staff in our state. The study findings will be made available to you through publication and conference presentations.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

We do not need your name and your survey response will be anonymous. You will be asked to identify where you work, but organisations will be de-identified in the write up of the findings.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

The only foreseeable discomfort associated with participating in this project is the approximately 15 minutes it will take you to complete the survey. As your response is completely anonymous, confidentiality will be maintained. If any emotional discomfort is experienced as a result of sharing your experience please discuss your concerns with your General Practitioner. If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the research team.

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is voluntary. The survey can be accessed via the following link: [add link](#). Once you press the submit button at the end of the survey it is assumed that you have consented to participate. If you do not complete the survey or do not submit the survey, you will not be included for participation.

How will I receive feedback?

The findings of this research will be disseminated via publication and conference presentation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number INSERT PROJECT No. here following approval). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au