

Participant Information Sheet

Justice & Society Academic Unit

Attitudes, knowledge, and inclusivity of healthcare providers towards sexual and gender-diverse populations within gynaecological cancer care: A mixed-methods study.

You've been invited to take part in the research study looking at the attitude and knowledge of healthcare providers within gynaecological cancer care. To take part **there is a short survey (10-15 minutes) to complete**. At the end of the survey, you will be given the opportunity to participate in an interview. Both parts of the study are **completely voluntary**. **You are welcome to participate in just the survey, both the survey and the interview, or neither and you can choose to withdraw at any time.**

Please read this carefully, and feel free to ask any questions if something is unclear or if you need more information. **Participation is voluntary, and you can choose not to take part if you prefer.** This is an online survey with an option to participate in an interview.

What is the purpose of this research?

We want to understand healthcare providers' attitudes toward treating sexuality and gender diverse individuals in gynaecological cancer care. We're also interested in how knowledgeable they feel about the specific needs and outcomes for these populations and whether they think their workplace is inclusive and welcoming.

This study is part of a PhD research project at the University of South Australia.

What does participation in this research involve?

Eligibility for the Study

To participate in this study, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be a healthcare professional (e.g., oncologist, nurse, psychologist, counsellor, GP, or allied health professional)
- Work with individuals who identify as part of a sexuality or gender minority group (lesbian, gay, queer, non-binary, trans men)
- Working within gynaecological cancer care, including screening, treatment, physical and psychological care, or palliative care.

Survey Details

The **survey will take around 10-15 minutes to complete**, and include questions related to attitudes, knowledge, and experiences treating/consulting sexuality and gender diverse people, along with 6 short answer questions. We will also collect basic demographic information such as age, gender, sexuality, and a little about which sector you work in.

Responses are anonymous. If you would like to take part in the draw **to win 1 of 8 \$50 gift cards**, you will be prompted to provide your email address. This will not be linked to your survey responses.

Interview Information

Following the survey, you will be asked if you would like to talk about your experiences working with sexuality and gender diverse people in more depth through an interview. **This is not compulsory, and you do not have to take part.** If you do opt-in, you'll be asked to click a link where you will provide your email for more information. This is to ensure the survey answers remain **anonymous**. If you agree to an interview, a consent form and a copy of this Participant Information Sheet will be emailed to you. Interviews will be conducted via phone or Zoom and will last 30-45 minutes. They will be recorded. A \$30 gift card can be mailed to you for your time.

Confidentiality

Survey responses and demographic details will not be identifiable to the research team.

While we make every effort to protect your confidentiality, the researcher cannot guarantee the complete security of information sent via email or the internet.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no guaranteed direct benefits to participating in this study. However, by answering the survey questions, you may gain insights into your own attitudes, knowledge, and workplace inclusivity. This could encourage you to seek further training and help create more inclusive healthcare environments, reducing discrimination, and fostering collaboration.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

The survey may contain topics that some participants could consider to be sensitive. If you experience any stress, these services are here to help you:

Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14

Beyond Blue – 1300 222 636

Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in this study is **voluntary**. You **do not** have to take part, and **you can withdraw at any time**, unless you've already submitted the survey. Once the survey is submitted, withdrawal is not possible due to the anonymity of responses.

If you take part in an interview, a copy of your transcript will be emailed to you to ensure accuracy. During this time, you can edit or remove your responses or withdraw from the study completely. Your decision to withdraw will not affect your relationship with the University. After you have approved transcript, all identifying information will be removed. After this time withdrawal will not be possible.

What will happen to your information?

The data collected will be **anonymous and cannot be linked to you**. The only personal information requested is your contact details if you wish to enter the gift card draw or receive a study summary which will not be linked to your survey responses. No personal information will be shared unless required by law. While we use secure survey software and store data on the University of South Australia's servers, we cannot guarantee full confidentiality for information sent by email or over the internet. Only the research team will have access to the data, and it will be securely stored for at least five years. By completing the survey or signing the consent form (for interviews), you agree to the collection of your data for this project, and de-identified data may be used in future research with ethical approval.

What happens when the research project ends?

If you would like a summary of findings, an emailed copy can be sent to you. Please include your email address when prompted.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is being conducted as part of a PhD research project. The primary investigator is Sally-Anne Boding (sally-anne.boding@mymail.edu.au) with the supervision team:

Professor Amanda Hutchinson (amanda.hutchinson@unisa.edu.au),

Dr Steph Webb (steph.webb@unisa.edu.au),

Dr Tamara Butler (tamara.butler@anu.edu.au) and

Hayley Russell: hayley.russell@ovariancancer.net.au.

This study has no funding or sponsors. There is no financial gain or incentives for the researchers or participants.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the University of South Australia as required by the Australian government research requirements, specified in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007 - updated 2018). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Further information and who to contact

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the researcher (Sally-Anne Boding) at sally-anne.boding@mymail.unisa.edu.au or Professor Amanda Hutchinson (Primary supervisor): amanda.hutchinson@unisa.edu.au

This project has been approved by the University of South Australia's Human Research Ethics Committee (approval number: 206761). If you have any ethical concerns about the project or questions about your rights as a participant, or should you or any third parties wish to lodge a complaint about either the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the Executive Officer of this Committee – humanethics@unisa.edu.au / tel: +61 8 8302 6330