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Participant Information Letter (Midwife)

Project title: Aboriginal Noongar Men's lived experiences on childbirth
Approval Number: REMS NO: 2021-03086-EWENS, HREC1086
Principal Investigator: Associate Professor Beverley Ewens
Student investigator: Rozita Samandari Mohammadi
Supervisors: Associate Professor Beverley Ewens, Associate Professor Amanda Towell-Barnard and Associate Professor Diana Arabiat

An invitation to participate in research

You are invited to take part in a research study being carried out by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Edith Cowan University. This research project is being undertaken as part of the requirements of a PhD at Edith Cowan University (ECU).

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether to take part, talk about it with a relative or friend.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read;
- Consent to take part in the research project;
- Consent to be involved in the research described;
- Consent to the use of your personal information as described.

What is this project about?

The aim of this study is to explore the role and experiences of Aboriginal Noongar men living in Perth metropolitan area during the birth of their child/children.

We would like to learn about registered midwives' experiences and knowledge of Noongar women's childbirth by yarning about your professional experiences and knowledge on Noongar men's roles during childbirth.

If I decide to participate, what will happen? What does it involve?

If you decide to participate in the study, you need to read and sign the consent form which is to say that you are happy to tell us your story and share your experiences of caring for Aboriginal Noongar women's expectation from their male partner during childbirth.

If you are a registered midwife and have experienced or been part of Australian Noongar women's pregnancy and childbirth journey and are interested in participating in this project, we would like to hear from you. You will be asked to yarn individually or in a small group of two to four with other midwives (if preferred and requested). The researcher will take notes during the yarn, and it will also be audio recorded. The yarn may last for about 30-90 minutes depending on how much you wish to share. You are free to share as much or as little information as you feel comfortable with. The yarn can take place at a convenient place and time and online using Teams/Zoom.

You will be free to withdraw your involvement in the project at any time, if you do so, any information that has been collected will be destroyed. Withdrawal of data following analysis will not be possible, but participants will not be identifiable at the feedback information sessions or publications where we will share the findings from this study. There are no costs associated with participating in this research project. Each participant involved in this research will receive a small allowance ($50) to compensate for their time and as an acknowledgment of their participation.

Do I have to take part in this research project?

Your participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information Letter and Consent form to sign and a copy of the information letter to keep.

Your privacy

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using your personal and professional experience and information on Aboriginal Noongar women and men lived experience on childbirth for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential.

Privacy and confidentiality will be assured, and participants will be informed and reassured that their stories belong to them, and that their involvement in this research will be recognised. Due to confidentiality, each participant will be given a pseudonym, grouping segments of text will be collected from Yarn transcription which will be collected by taking notes during yarn with participants' consent which will be obtained after introduction and prior to start the yarn.

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

The ethical aspects of this research project have been applied through ECU ethic committee as well as the Western Australia Aboriginal Health Committee, and approval has been granted.

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project, and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except when requested for specific reasons, and then you will be asked to provide written consent.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Western Australian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this letter if you would like to access your information.

All data collected will be kept in accordance with ECU's Data Management Policy. Electronic data will be stored on a secure Microsoft SharePoint site provisioned by ECU's IT Services and physical records will be stored as required in ECU's Records Management Policy. The data will be retained for seven years as per WAUSDA guidelines. Data will be de-identified when stored and at the end of the retention period, the data will be destroyed, if appropriate under the State Records Act.

Possible Benefits

This research may not provide benefit to you personally. However, you may gain some satisfaction in knowing that you have assisted in developing culturally appropriate ways to make changes and support Noongar men and women and their families around childbirth.

Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan

You may feel slight distress about some of the questions we ask during the yarn. If you do not wish to answer, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may immediately pause the yarn or you may need to speak to other appropriate support services. If you feel you would like to speak to anyone about your experiences that you have yarned about, we will provide you with a contact list of services you may wish to contact.

What happens when this research study stops?
Findings of the research will be published in research journals and present them at research conferences but your name or any other identifying information will not be included in any of the publications or presentations.

Has this research been approved?

This research project has received the approval of Edith Cowan University's Human Research Ethics Committee, in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023), as well as Western Australia Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC)*. The approval numbers are; REMS NO: 2021-03086-EWENS, and HREC1086

Contacts

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this project, please contact the following people.

Chief Investigator
Name: Beverley Ewens
Role: Associate Professor
Edith Cowan University
P: 6304 3542
E: b.ewens@ecu.edu.au

Student Investigator
Name: Rozita Samandari Mohammadi
Role: Student
Edith Cowan University
P: 0402016158
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If you have any concerns or complaints about the research project and wish to talk to an independent person, you may contact:

Research Ethics Advisor
Edith Cowan University
Phone: 6304 2423
Email: research.ethics@edu.au

OR

Western Australia Aboriginal Health Ethics Council
Address: 450 Beaufort St, Highgate WA 6003
Phone: (08) 9227 1631
Email: ethics@ahcwa.org

If you wish to participate in this research, please *sign the Consent Form and return to rsamanda@our.ecu.edu.au*

Sincerely,

Beverley Ewens

Chief Investigator