

Participant Information Sheet

Understanding doctors' experiences following the sudden death of a medical colleague: A qualitative study (Interview)

Doctors' Health NSW and The University of Notre Dame Australia

Title	<i>Understanding Doctors' Experiences Following the Sudden Death of a Medical Colleague: A qualitative study (Interview)</i>
Short Title	<i>Sudden death of a medical colleague (Interview)</i>
Principal Investigator	<i>Associate Professor Meagan Brennan, University of Notre Dame Australia</i>
Associate Investigator(s)	<i>Dr Margaret Kay Doctors' Health QLD and The University of QLD Ms Amy Webster Registered Psychologist, Doctors' Health NSW Dr Kathryn Hutt Medical Director, Doctors' Health NSW</i>
Location	<i>The University of Notre Dame Sydney and Doctors' Health NSW</i>

You are invited to participate in an interview as part of the research project described below.

What is the project about?

This research project will explore doctors' experiences of the sudden death of a medical colleague due to an accident, catastrophic medical event, or suicide.

The aim is to understand the experience of doctors who experience the death of a colleague. This includes understanding how doctors coped, what support they received and what support may have been helpful.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by The University of Notre Dame Australia and Doctors' Health NSW with funding from NSW Health. The researchers are A/Prof Meagan Brennan, Dr Margaret Kay, Ms Amy Webster and Dr Kathryn Hutt.

What will I be asked to do?

You are invited to participate in a one-on-one 60–90 minute video interview on Microsoft Teams. You will be asked questions about your experience with a loss of a medical colleague, including what it was like for you, what support you received and what support may have been helpful.

If you consent to take part in this research study, it is important that you understand the purpose of the study and what you will be asked to do. Please make sure that you ask any questions you have and that all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before you agree to participate.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

The topic of the interview is extremely sensitive. You may find it difficult to talk about the death of a colleague. You will be interviewed by a Registered Psychologist who is trained in working with people who have experienced trauma. It is possible that you may become distressed during the interview.

You can choose which questions you would like to answer. You can also choose to stop the interview at any time. There is no penalty for this.

If you become distressed during or after the interview, you can contact:

- **Doctors' Health NSW** on Tel. 02 9437 6552 (24/7 phone support for doctors, provided by experienced doctors who are not part of the research team)
Doctors' Health NSW is a registered charity and would not receive any additional benefit from research participants using the 24/7 telephone support service.
- **Your own General Practitioner**
- **Lifeline Australia** on Tel 13 11 14 or SMS: 0477 131 114

What are the benefits of the research project?

We cannot promise that you will receive any benefits from participating in this research. However, we expect that the results of this study may help us better understand and help doctors who experience the death of a colleague in the future.

You will be given a \$100 gift voucher for Coles/Myer to thank you for participating in this study.

What if I change my mind?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Even if you agree to participate, you are free to withdraw from further participation at any time without giving a reason and with no negative consequences. You are also free to ask for any information which identifies you to be withdrawn from the study.

How will you keep my information private and confidential?

Information gathered about you will be held in strict confidence and will not be released by the researcher to a third party unless required to do so by law.

The audio-recording from the video interview will be transcribed (typed into a document) and stored in a secure, password protected cloud-based system. The video-recording will be deleted once the transcription is complete and checked for accuracy. Only the researchers will have access to this information during the project.

Once the study is completed, the data collected from you will be de-identified and stored securely as per university policy for research data management. The data may be used in future research but you will not be identifiable. The results of the study will be published as a summary report and a journal article.

Will I be able to find out the results of the project?

Once we have analysed the information from this study we will put a summary on the Doctors' Health NSW website and AMA NSW newsletter. No identifying information about you will be included. At the time of your interview, you will also be asked if you would like to receive a copy of the results by email.

It will take around 9 months for the results to be available.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions about this project please contact A/Prof Meagan Brennan on meagan.brennan@nd.edu.au or phone 0419 984035. You can also contact Doctors' Health NSW on admin@dhas.org.au or phone 02 9030 7515.

We are happy to discuss any concerns or questions you may have about this study.

What if I have a concern or complaint?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Notre Dame Australia (study number 2023-083). If you have a concern or complaint regarding the ethical conduct of this research project and would like to speak to an independent person, please contact Notre Dame's Research Ethics Officer at (+61 8) 9433 0943 or research@nd.edu.au. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

How do I sign up to participate?

If you are willing to participate in an interview, please express your interest through the research information page on the Doctors' Health NSW website doctorshealth.org.au or by contacting the research team on the email or phone numbers above.

We will send you a consent form to sign and return to us. We will arrange a time for the interview that is convenient for you.

Thank you for your time. This sheet is for you to keep.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Meagan Brennan

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