

## Participant Information Sheet

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

#### Doctors' Health NSW and The University of Notre Dame Australia

<b>Title</b>	<i>Understanding Doctors' Experiences Following the Sudden Death of a Medical Colleague: A qualitative study (Survey)</i>
<b>Short Title</b>	<i>Sudden death of a medical colleague (Survey)</i>
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	<i>Associate Professor Meagan Brennan, University of Notre Dame Australia</i>
<b>Associate Investigator(s)</b>	<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>
<b>Location</b>	<i>The University of Notre Dame Sydney and Doctors' Health NSW</i>

You are invited to participate in a survey 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 will be asked to complete an online survey. It will ask questions about your experience with the death of a medical colleague, including what it was like for you, what support you received and what support may have been helpful. It should take you about 20–30 minutes. The survey is completely anonymous.

#### ***Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?***

The topic of the survey is extremely sensitive. You may find it difficult to think about the death of your colleague. It is possible that you may become distressed during or after completing the survey.

You can choose which questions you would like to answer. You can also choose to stop the survey at any time and to decline to submit your responses. There is no penalty for this.

If you become distressed during or after the survey, 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

*This contact information will be available on the survey pages.*

### ***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 will help us better understand and help doctors who experience the death of a colleague in the future.

### ***What if I change my mind?***

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Even if you begin the survey, you are free to withdraw by simply not completing it. However, once you complete the survey and submit it, you won't be able to withdraw it because we will have no way of knowing which response is yours.

### ***How will you keep my information private and confidential?***

Completed surveys will be stored securely on the survey platform and in a secure data base at Doctors' Health NSW. Only the researchers named on this sheet will have access to this information during the project.

Once the study is completed, the data collected from you will be stored securely as per university policy for research data management. The data may be used in future research. The results of the study will be published as a journal article and/or conference presentation. 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.

### ***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' NSW website and AMA NSW newsletter. No identifying information about you will be included.

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](mailto:meagan.brennan@nd.edu.au) or phone 0419 984035. You can also contact Doctors' Health NSW on [admin@dhas.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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, please click on this [link to the survey](#) or follow this QR code.



You can also find the link on the research information page on the Doctors' Health NSW website [doctorshealth.org.au](http://doctorshealth.org.au) or by contacting the research team on the email or phone numbers above.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Associate Professor Meagan Brennan**

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