



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET
General Practitioners

Title: A Study to understand the barriers and enablers to the General Practitioner supporting bereaved patients to inform the development of a grief and bereavement plan for South Australia

Chief Investigators:

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Co-investigators

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Description of the study:

This research project has been initiated by the South Australian Government Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW), Professor Jennifer Tieman (Flinders University), Ms Kate Swetenham (DHW) and Dr David Holden (Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health) and is funded by The Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care Project.

GPs provide medical management of residents within Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) and the bereavement care of resident's family members has been identified as an unmet need. The purpose of this study is to understand the prevalence of grief and bereavement within the community served by General Practitioners. The researchers are aiming to identify resources that the GPs have found helpful and any barriers that have prevented access to seeking or accessing help and assistance for patients. Knowledge gained from this study will serve to inform a broader South Australian Grief and Bereavement Plan.

This Participant Information Sheet provides information about the research project and what participation will involve. Participation is entirely voluntary, so if you do not wish to take part you do not have to.

What will I be asked to do?

General Practitioners (GPs) that meet the eligibility criteria below are invited to fill in a short online survey that will explore your experiences and views of managing a grieving patient in a clinical setting. The survey will take no longer than 10-minutes to complete and you will have 4-weeks from the date of the invitation email to complete the survey. Participation is entirely voluntary, and your employer will not know who has participated and what responses you have provided.

<i>Eligibility Criteria:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 18- years or over • English speaking • Access to digital technology • Registered General Practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Authority (AHPRA) • A practicing General Practitioner
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What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

Australian research has shown the value of community and personal social supports in how an individual responds to bereavement. Building community capacity in supporting those who are caring for someone approaching death or who are grieving is an important part of a network of bereavement.

There will be no direct benefits for GPs who choose to participate in this study, however, as the first point of contact for bereaved consumers, sharing your experiences and views on supporting the bereaved will help to inform future clinical practice and guide peak bodies and health services about supporting the community through grief and bereavement.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

No identifying information provided (e.g., demographic data) will be published or included in any presentations about the research project. Your participation will be anonymous, and all information provided will be treated as strictly confidential.

Data Storage

All information provided by participants will be securely stored on a password protected computer at the South Australian Department of Health and Wellbeing (DHW) and Flinders University with access limited to the research team members only.

Data will remain linked to a unique code number but separated from other details that could identify you. Your collected information will be securely stored by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) and Flinders University for at least 5-years after the end of the study. Only members of the research team will have access to this data. After the 5-year period any identifying information will be destroyed.

Future Use of Data

Bereavement is an under researched area. On that basis, it is possible that as the evidence emerges that other researchers may reach out to access or review the data collected for this study. In such instances, SA Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) approval will be sought and obtained prior to any dissemination of de-identified research data.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

The survey questions will ask you to identify how you support and manage bereaved patients, however you will not be asked to reflect on a death within your personal life. It is not anticipated that survey completion will cause any discomfort, however, if for any reason you do feel emotional discomfort as a result of your participation, you can contact free telephone counselling services such as Lifeline (13-11-14), Beyond Blue (1300-224-636) and Doctors Health SA ((08) 8366-0250). Also, if you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the researcher team.

How do I agree to participate?

If you would like to participate, please complete the online survey within 4-weeks. By completing and submitting the survey you are providing your consent to participate. One reminder email invitation will be emailed to you 1-week after the initial invitation was sent, however, no further emails will be sent to you about the project.

If you do not wish to complete the survey, you can simply disregard the invitation emails. If you start completing the online survey and then decide you no-longer wish to participate, you can just exit out of the online survey and not submit it.

How will I receive feedback?

On completion of the project, findings from the research project will be provided to General Practitioners through public channels such as newsletters, journal publications and presentations.

Further Information and Contacts

If you would like additional information about this research project, the person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query as explained below.

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your participation in the project, you can contact Ms Kate Swetenham (kate.swetenham@sa.gov.au) or the chief investigator listed below.

Contact person

Name	Professor Jennifer Tieman
Position	Chief Investigator
Telephone	08 7221 8237
Email	jennifer.tieman@flinders.edu.au

If you have any complaints about any aspect of this research project, the way it is being conducted then you may contact:

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) that Approved this Study

Reviewing HREC name	Flinders University, Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
Project No. of this Study	4102
Telephone	08 8201 2543
Email	human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au

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