

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

The Concussion Conversation: Practices and Perceptions in Community Sport

Researchers:

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Supervisors:

Dr Catherine Keniry BSc (Hons 1) PhD, Director of Medical Evaluation and Research Unit, School of Rural Medicine, Charles Sturt University

Dr Brendan Cantwell BAppSci MBBS, Director of Curriculum, School of Rural Medicine, Charles Sturt University

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study on knowledge, attitudes and practices in rural community sport.

The study is being conducted by Chelsea Brooks, Dr Catherine Keniry and Dr Brendan Cantwell from the School of Rural Medicine at the Charles Sturt University. Charles Sturt University is an Australian University, TEQSA Provider Identification: PRV12018. Charles Sturt University CRICOS Provider: 00005F

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to investigate current attitudes, practices and policies around sport related concussion at the community sporting level in rural areas. This is important due to the growing recognition and awareness about the complications of concussion. There is little recent research into this area, especially studies which focus on rural populations. By understanding this information, this may help to inform better policy and education in the future.

Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

We are seeking coaches, trainers and players from local sporting clubs to participate. You have been invited to participate as you are aged 18 years or older and are involved with a local sporting club in one of these roles. This research includes topics about head injuries and concussions. If this is distressing for you, you are advised to consider if participating is right for you.

We also suggest that you discuss whether you participate with a friend or family member first.

What does this study involve?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short anonymous survey which examines your concussion knowledge, attitudes towards concussion and some general questions around your club's concussion policy. The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey please contact Researchers Dr Catherine Keniry (ckeniry@csu.edu.au) or Chelsea Brooks (chelseapbrooks@hotmail.com).

There is also an option to complete an additional component of a short semi-structured interview; completion of the survey does not obligate you to participating in the interview. The interview will involve a researcher asking you a set of questions and will take approximately 30 minutes. This will take place at a time convenient to you via an online platform (Microsoft Teams or Zoom), and are audio recorded to be later transcribed. You will have an opportunity to review this transcript within a week of the interview taking place and asked to return it within 14 days upon receipt of the transcript. The questions in the interview are designed to explore in greater detail some of the themes from the survey and provide you with an opportunity to discuss anything that you think was not adequately captured in the survey.

Are there risks and benefits to me in taking part in this study?

We recognise that discussion of head injuries and concussion may cause distress for some participants. Because of this, if at any point you seem uncomfortable or distressed, the interviewer may pause or stop the interview, even if you do not say anything. You are also free to stop participation in the survey and/or interview at any time without any consequences for doing so. There are no direct benefits for participating in the study.

How is this study being paid for?

There is no funding for this project as it is student led.

Will taking part in this study (or travelling to) cost me anything, and will I be paid?

This study is free and on a voluntary basis meaning that there is no financial cost nor benefit in participating.

What if I don't want to take part in this study?

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you decide to participate, is your decision and will not disadvantage you. Only those who give their informed consent will be included in the project.

What if I participate and want to withdraw later?

If you wish to withdraw your consent you can do so any time by contacting researcher Catherine Keniry. There is no penalty for withdrawing consent and measures will be taken to destroy your information where practicable. Withdrawal of consent will result in your interview recording and transcript being deleted if withdrawal occurs before it is de-identified for thematic analysis. De-identified data cannot be destroyed. Surveys are anonymous and thus specific survey data cannot be deleted.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

Data will be collected on a password protected server which will only be accessible by the data collector (Researcher Brooks) and direct supervisors (Researchers Keniry and Cantwell). This ensures that data access is strictly controlled and limited to authorised research team members. To enhance security, interview transcripts will also be de-identified and information referring to third parties which might reveal identity will be redacted. All data will be retained for a minimum of five years after the project's completion. Interviews and the associated records of them are strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to persons outside the research team.

What will happen to the information that I give you?

This study is part of a student led research required for completion of the Doctor of Medicine with Charles Sturt University. Your data will be included in the final report submitted to the university as part of this requirement, and also shared with participating clubs. Additionally, the research may be submitted to be published in academic journals or presented at conferences.

Any data collected from the study will not be presented in a way that includes identifying information. At times, direct quotes from the interview, should you be participating in this component, may be included in the report. All other information will be presented in a generalised way.

Interviews conducted as part of this research will be audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. You will be given the opportunity to review your transcript once completed in order to edits or erase your contribution.

At completion of the study, results will not be sent directly to individual participants unless specifically requested.

What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before deciding?

If you would like further information, please contact Chelsea Brooks on 0459 767 101 or Catherine Keniry via email ckeniry@csu.edu.au.

Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Research Integrity Unit via the following contact details:

The Presiding Officer
Human Research Ethics Committee
Research Integrity Unit
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678 Phone: (02) 6933 4213 Email: ethics@csu.edu.au

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated thoroughly, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Thank you for considering this invitation. This information sheet is for you to keep.