

Information Sheet – Group 1- Neurodivergent People

Project Title: Neurodiversity Affirming Practices in Emergency Healthcare

What is this project about?

We are doing a study to learn how paramedics (the people who help in emergencies) can better support people who are neurodivergent. Neurodivergent means people who think, feel, or behave differently, like people with autism or ADHD.

Who is doing the study?

The study is run by researchers from Western Sydney University and Monash University. Their names are Liz, Caroline, Emma, Lise, Charlton and Kitty. Some of the researchers are neurodivergent too.

Who is paying for the study?

Western Sydney University is paying for the study.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to talk to a researcher about a time when you were sick and needed help from a paramedic. This chat can happen online or in person, at a time that works for you.

How long will it take?

The chat will take between 30 minutes and 1 hour.

Will this help me or other people?

You won't get anything for doing the study, but your story can help make paramedic care better for neurodivergent people in the future.

Is there anything that might be hard or upsetting?

Talking about being sick or needing help might make you feel sad or upset. If you feel this way, you can call the Mental Health Access Line on 1800 011 511 or talk to your doctor.

You might tell us about bad or unsafe behaviour by a healthcare worker. That is okay. We will not write down any names. If you want to complain you can contact:

- **NSW Ambulance Complaints**
ambulance.nsw.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/complaints

NSW Health Care Complaints Commission

hccc.nsw.gov.

We know your time is important, so our chat won't be too long.

What will happen with the results?

We will share what we learn in talks and papers, but we won't use your real name. We will use a fake name so no one knows it's you.

What happens to the information I give?

Only the researchers will see your answers. Your information might be used in other studies about paramedics and neurodivergent people for up to 15 years.

Can I stop being part of the study?

Yes! You don't have to do the study. If you start and change your mind, you can stop anytime before we look at the answers. Just tell the researchers or send them an email.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes! You can tell others and give them the contact details of the researchers:

- Liz: E.thyer@westernsydney.edu.au
- Caroline: caroline.mills@westernsydney.edu.au

What if I want to know more?

You can email Liz or Caroline if you have questions or want to talk more before you decide.

Privacy Notice

Western Sydney University will keep your personal and health information safe. You can read more about this on their website [Privacy at Western Sydney webpage](#).

What if I have a complaint?

If you are worried about the study or think something is wrong, you can email the Ethics Committee at: humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au

They will listen and help you. You can tell them the approval number: H17060.

What is consent?



If you say yes to being part of the study, you might be asked to sign a form. You keep the information sheet, and the researchers keep the form you signed.

What happens to my information if it's used in other projects? (Extended Consent)

If you agree, your answers can be used in other studies that are like this one. This is called 'Extended Consent'. Your name will not be used. The information will be kept safe for 15 years and then deleted.

You can ask the researchers more questions before you decide.