PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (Focus Group)

TITLE: The Meaning of Safety in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Units

PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH: This is an invitation to participate in a study being conducted by a researcher at the University of Wollongong. The purpose of the research is to investigate the meaning of safety for people who have had experience of admission to an acute (public) mental health inpatient unit.

RESEARCHER:
Ms Natalie Cutler
PhD candidate
School of Nursing & Midwifery
University of Wollongong
M: 0411354829
nac639@uowmail.edu.au

SUPERVISORS:
Professor Lorna Moxham
Professor of Mental Health Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery
University of Wollongong
02 4221 2559
lmoxham@uow.edu.au

Dr Moira Stephens
School of Nursing & Midwifery
University of Wollongong
02 4221 5350
moiras@uow.edu.au

PARTICIPANTS:
If you choose to be included, you will be asked to participate in a focus group of up to 90 minutes facilitated by the researcher. The focus group will be audiotaped. Along with other focus group participants, you will be asked to consider the themes emerging from a series of interviews in which people who have experienced admission to an acute mental health inpatient unit in NSW explored the meaning of safety for them in that setting. The information you provide will not be used for any other purpose than the research project. All data will be stored securely for a period of 5 years and will only be accessed by the investigator and her supervisors.

POSSIBLE RISKS, INCONVENIENCES AND DISCOMFORTS:
Apart from up to 90 minutes of your time, the focus group will involve thinking about whether the themes emerging from the interviews are consistent with what safety meant to you when you were in the acute mental inpatient setting. This may cause some discomfort or distress. The study will not require you to go into detail about your experiences, but rather to think about whether you can relate to the emerging themes, given those experiences. If you do become distressed as a result of participating in this focus group, help is available from a counselling support service such as Lifeline (in Australia 13 11 14). Your involvement in the focus group is voluntary and you may withdraw your participation at any time. Refusal to participate in the focus group will not affect your relationship with the University of Wollongong or any health services or health professionals.

FUNDING AND BENEFITS OF THE RESEARCH:
This study is being undertaken as part of a PhD, and is not funded by an external body. This research will raise awareness of consumers’ perceptions of safety in the acute mental health inpatient setting. Findings from the study will be published in a PhD thesis, and may be published in mental health journals and presented at mental health conferences. Your confidentiality is assured, and you will not be identified in any publications arising from the research.

ETHICS REVIEW AND COMPLAINTS:
This study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Wollongong (reference HE14/140). If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the way this research has been conducted you can contact the Ethics Officer on +61 2 4221 3386 or email rso-ethics@uow.edu.au.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY:
Please contact Natalie Cutler (details above).