Cancer, Intimacy, Sexuality, and Palliative Care Study

Volunteers Wanted:
Health professionals who work with people with cancer who are receiving palliative care

The purpose of the study: To explore how health professionals communicate with patients about sexuality and intimacy in a palliative oncology context. The aim of this research is to explore how health professionals view sexuality and intimacy in the context of palliative care, and their experiences of discussing sexuality and intimacy with patients.

Who can take part? Health professionals who have had experience working with palliative care patients who have cancer. This can include doctors, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, and nurses.

What is required? You can choose to participate in either an individual interview or in a focus group, conducted by the researcher, Lauren Kadwell. Individual interviews can be conducted via the telephone if convenient, or face-to-face at a suitable location. During this interview, I will be interested in your personal experiences of discussing sexuality and intimacy with patients. This discussion will be audio-taped to allow me to go over what is said in detail afterwards. This discussion will be strictly confidential. It will take you no longer than one hour.

What are the benefits? This study will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your experiences of discussing intimacy and sexuality with your patients, and will assist in identifying what further training and resources you would require in order to feel better equipped in attending to the sexual and intimate needs of your patients.

Who is running the study: Lauren Kadwell is running this study as part of a Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology) thesis, under the supervision of Dr Emilee Gilbert from the School of Social Sciences and Psychology at the University of Western Sydney. This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Research Committee (HREC 9397).

I want to participate. What do I do?

Contact Lauren Kadwell at l.kadwell@uws.edu.au or on 0404 902 140.

You can also request more information about the study.