



**School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**

**Division of Occupational Therapy**

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**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET - Survey**

**Title:** Evaluating OT AUSTRALIA Queensland's occupational therapy online communities of practice and their role in supporting occupational therapy practice.

**Lay Title:** Evaluating OT AUSTRALIA Queensland's Communities of Practice.

**Investigators:**

1. Dr Tammy Hoffmann, Lecturer, Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland.  
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2. Dr Laura Desha, Lecturer, Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland.  
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3. **Ms Kellie Verrall, Graduate Entry Masters Occupational Therapy student, Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland, St Lucia Qld 4072.**  
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We would like you to invite you to participate in a study that we are doing.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

There is evidence to suggest that communities of practice (CoP) are a useful way to enhance the connectedness and clinical support of health professionals. However, little research has explored the benefits and challenges facing occupational therapists who use CoP. Early in 2009, OT AUSTRALIA Queensland launched their online CoP. We would like to explore occupational therapists': 1) level of awareness of the OT AUSTRALIA Queensland CoP forums, 2) perceptions about the benefits of and barriers to using the online forums, and 3) reasons for participating in/not participating in the forums.

**What will I need to do if I choose to be involved?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to download and print, or fill out an electronic version of a short survey about the CoP. **If you choose to complete the survey electronically you will need to lodge your responses by emailing the completed document to Kellie Verrall (see the heading 'Investigators' for her email address). If you choose to complete a paper version of the survey you will need to post or fax your completed survey to Kellie Verrall (address also listed under 'Investigators', above).** The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. Your consent to participate in this project in accordance with assurances and conditions provided on this information sheet will be assumed if you complete and submit the survey.

**What happens after that?**

- We will write a report.
- You are welcome to request a summary of this report if you would like. Please contact any of the investigators that are listed on the first page of this information sheet. It is anticipated that this summary report should be available after October 2010.
- There are no risks to you if you decide to take part in this study.
- There may be no direct benefits to you if you decide to take part in this study.

**Everything will be kept confidential.**

- All information will be stored securely.
- In our report, any information that you give us will not be linked with your name or any other personal details about you.

**What if I do not want to be involved?**

- That's fine. It is completely up to you.
- If you do start and then change your mind, this will be respected.
- Your decision not to participate or to withdraw will in no way affect your relationship with The University of Queensland or OT AUSTRALIA Queensland.

**Who can I talk to if I have any questions about the project?**

If you would like any more information regarding this project please contact one of the project investigators listed above. This study has been cleared by one of the human ethics committees of The University of Queensland in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines. You are of course free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff whose contact details are on the top of the first page of this information sheet. If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 3365 3924.

Thank you for considering your involvement in this research project.

Tammy Hoffmann, Laura Desha, & Kellie Verrall