LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING
School of Allied Health

Epworth

Participant Information Statement

Exploring the barriers and facilitators to functional prosthetic use and community participation for people following traumatic amputation.

Principal investigator: Dr Sarah Anderson, BPO, MPH, PhD. School of Allied Health, La Trobe University.
Coinvestigators: Abby Hutchison, BOccThy, Epworth Healthcare.
Jemma Keeves, BPhys (Hons), PhD Candidate, Epworth Healthcare.
Tara Bewley, BExSc, Epworth Healthcare.

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Why is this study important?

The loss of a limb has significant impact on participation in everyday activities in the home, workplace and community. Rehabilitation programs aim to support a return to these meaningful activities, and improve quality of life. This often includes prosthetic prescription and training, and retraining in everyday activities, mobility and community access, leisure, driving and work.

This research will enable exploration and understanding of people's experience follow traumatic limb loss, and the barriers and facilitators to reengaging in the community, including functional use of a prosthesis.

What we learn from this research will help us improve the rehabilitation process to improve satisfaction and outcomes of those who experience traumatic limb loss.

How did I receive this invitation?

You've received this invitation because you have been identified as an eligible participant by the investigators.

Who is eligible to participate?

You are eligible to participate in this study if you:

- are over 18 years of age,
- sustained a traumatic amputation more than 2 year ago.

What is involved in being a participant?

If you consent to the study, you will be asked to participate in one interview via phone or videoconference, approximately 1hour in duration.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

How will the data be used?

The data will be used to explore your experiences following traumatic amputation, identifying factors which supported and impeded your reengagement in the community.

The results of the study will be published in a journal article. The results will also be presented at conferences and seminars for doctors and allied-health professionals. Data will be made anonymous and there will be no way to identify you in any of these publications or presentations.

How will the data be stored?

The interview will be recorded on two devices. The interviews will be transcribed onto paper and deidentified at this point. Once the paper transcript of the interview is completed one audio file will be deleted and the other will be downloaded and stored on a secure server at La Trobe University. Only the researchers will have password access to the data. Once the research is completed, the data will be kept for seven years. After this time, all data will be deleted.

Can I find out about the results?

Yes. Given that the data you submit will be made completely anonymous, we have no way of knowing which data is yours. As such, if you're interested in finding out about the results of the study, you'll need to contact the Principal Investigator using the contact details at the bottom of this letter.

What are my options for participating or withdrawing from this research?

Participating in this research is voluntary. Your decision to take part, or not take part in the study will in no way affect your ongoing relationship with any of the investigators or the organizations affiliated with the project. The care you receive as a client of your health service will in no way be prejudiced by your decisions to participate or not.

You have the right to withdraw from active participation in this project at any time. You may also request that data arising from your participation are not used in the research project provided that this right is exercised within four weeks of the completion of your participation in

the project. You are asked to complete the "Withdrawal of Consent Form" or to notify the researcher by email or telephone that you wish to withdraw your consent for your data to be used in this research project.

What are the benefits of this research?

There is no benefit to you personally by participating in this research. However, your participation will help us to improve the rehabilitation provided to others who experience traumatic amputation.

What are the risks of participating?

With any study there are (1) risks we know about, (2) risks we don't know about and (3) risks we don't expect.

There are minimal risks to you participating in the study as we are only collecting information about you regarding your progress. If you experience any discomfort or distress participating in the interview, you will be encouraged to discuss this with your treating psychologist at Epworth Healthcare, or any of the following community-based counselling services;

Lifeline 13 11 14
Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
Limbs for life (Peer Support) 1300 782 231

Where can I direct my questions or concerns?

Any questions regarding this research may be directed to coinvestigator:

Abby Hutchison
Email: abby.hutchison@epworth.org.au
Phone: +61 409701515

If you have any concerns about your participation in the research that the researcher has not been able to answer to your satisfaction, or a complaint concerning the manner in which the research has been conducted you may contact;

Senior Human Ethics Officer,
Ethics and Integrity, Research Office
La Trobe University, Victoria, 3086
Phone: +61(3) 9479 1443,
Email: humanethics@latrobe.edu.au
Please quote application reference number: HEC20057.

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called

a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the HREC of La Trobe University.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.