

Participant Information Statement- Health Professional

Redesigning the Northern Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service

Project lead: *Liesel Jeffers and Jason Bransby-Bell*

Project team: *Christian Minett, Arietta Kaleyias, Ashlee Calvi, Melanie Sauer, Vanessa Richardson*

Site(s): *Ballina District Hospital, Grafton Base Hospital, Maclean District Hospital, Murwillumbah District Hospital.*

Why have I been invited to participate in this project?

You are invited to participate in a research project because you are a health professional working in the Northern NSW Local Health District, and you have worked with clients of the Northern Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service (NBIRS).

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this project, it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

The project is being conducted by the Northern Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service (NBIRS). The project team includes:

- Liesel Jeffers, Service Manager
- Jason Bransby-Bell, Rehabilitation Coordinator/Speech Pathologist
- Christian Minett, Rehabilitation Coordinator/Occupational Therapist
- Arietta Kaleyias, Rehabilitation Coordinator/Occupational Therapist
- Ashlee Calvi, Rehabilitation Coordinator/Occupational Therapist
- Melanie Sauer, Neuropsychologist
- Vanessa Richardson, Administration Officer

What is this project about?

People with traumatic brain injury (TBI) need access to specialist brain injury rehabilitation services. Some people with other types of ABIs, such as hypoxic brain injuries or strokes, also benefit from specialist brain injury rehabilitation.

The Northern Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service (NBIRS) provides community-based case management and neuropsychology services for people with TBI and other types of ABIs in Northern NSW. In the past, NBIRS has not been funded to provide therapy. Therefore, people with severe brain injuries in Northern NSW LHD usually receive therapy from other services. Sometimes these services are time limited and happen in an outpatient clinic. This is not ideal, as rehabilitation after TBI should go for as long as the person has achievable goals, and should occur in people's homes or in the community.



The NBIRS is now in a position to offer limited therapy services on top of case management and neuropsychology services. This means that NBIRS will be redesigning how it delivers services to people with brain injuries in Northern NSW.

To help us redesign our service, we want to make sure that we consider the views and priorities of health professionals who have worked alongside NBIRS.

The aim of this project is to *understand the priorities of consumers and health care professionals about the delivery of brain injury rehabilitation services in Northern NSW.*

What does this research involve?

If you agree to participate in this project, you will be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. One of the project leads will contact you and you will have the chance to ask questions about the project.

Some information about you will be gathered and used by the researchers to describe who was involved in the project. This information will include your sex at birth, gender, age, your professional experience, and where you work.

Your involvement in the project will involve attending one (1) workshop, which will go for about two (2) hours. The workshop will happen at a public hospital near you. Alternatively, it may happen online using a secure videoconferencing platform. The location of the workshops will depend on the number of participants who agree to participate and where they work.

The workshop will be run by three (3) researchers who are NBIRS staff members. The workshop will involve health professionals who have worked with NBIRS clients for at least six (6) months.

Before the workshop, we will send you some information to read. During the two (2) hour workshop, the following will happen:

1. You will hear about the NBIRS and we will explain the research project to you again.
2. The group (of us to 10 people) will be given one (1) question to answer during the workshop. The question will ask you about what an ideal brain injury service would look like to you. This might include but are not limited to access to multidisciplinary intervention and equipment, staff undertaking home visits, and establishment of peer support, group therapy, or brain injury education programs.
3. You will have time to think of as many ideas as you can in response to the question.
4. The group will share their ideas and one of the researchers will write the ideas on a whiteboard.
5. The group will talk about what the ideas mean.
6. Ideas will be sorted in themes.
7. Everyone will choose their top five (5) themes, and rank them in order of importance. You will do this by yourself, and you will not share your top ideas with the group.

What if I don't want to take part in the project, or if I want to withdraw later?

Participation in this project is voluntary. It is up to you whether or not you participate. If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your relationship with NBIRS or the Northern NSW LHD now or in the future. If you wish to withdraw from the project once it has started, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason. Please discuss this with one of the project staff who will help you to complete a project withdrawal form.



What are the risks to me in taking part in this project?

There are no significant risks involved in participating in this project. However, it is possible that you might feel some discomfort associated with talking about your experiences in front of a group. We will aim to make sure the process is as comfortable as possible for everyone involved. If you would like support, please call Liesel Jeffers, NBIRS service manager on 0438 440 477.

Participation in the project might also result in some inconvenience, as you may need to travel to attend the workshop. The research team will endeavor to conduct the workshops at a public hospital that is close to where you work in the Northern NSW Local Health District.

What will happen to information about me?

Any identifiable information that is collected about you in connection with this project will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission, or except as required by law. Your name will be replaced with a participant number, and documents linking your name and participant number will be stored separately.

Only the researchers named above will have access to your details that will be held securely at Ballina District Hospital. If applicable, only non-identifiable information will be sent off site. This will only occur when necessary and the provisions of Australian privacy law will be complied with.

If you give us your permission by signing the consent document, we plan to publish the results in a peer-reviewed journal and present the results at conferences or other professional forums. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified. Results of the project will be provided to you, if you wish.

Information collected as part of this project will be kept for a maximum of five (5) years, as required by Northern NSW LHD policy.

What if I would like further information about the project?

If you would like to know more about the project, and your potential involvement, please contact Liesel Jeffers on (02) 6620 6361, or Jason Bransby-Bell on 0497 190 574, who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Ethics approval

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Northern NSW Local Health District Research Office under a non-Human Research Ethics Committee pathway for low-risk projects and deemed to be consistent with the principles and values of the outlined in the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\)](#) . The ethics approval number is QA427.

If you are concerned about the way this project is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the research project, please contact the Research Governance Officer:

Rebecca Lavery	Research Governance Officer Northern NSW Local Health District
<u>Email:</u>	NNSWLHD-Ethics@health.nsw.gov.au
<u>Telephone:</u>	(02) 6672 0269

**Thank you for taking the time to consider this project.
This information sheet is for you to keep.**