This Information Sheet needs to be submitted, along with the application and all associated documents as follows:

* In printed form;
* With the required signatures in the relevant part of the application form;
* Single sided;
* Using clips rather than staples;
* Please deliver or post to the AUTEC Secretariat, room WU406, fourth floor, WU Building, City Campus. The internal mail code is D-88. The courier address is 46 Wakefield Street, Auckland 1010. Alternatively, please hand the application to the Research Ethics Advisor in person at one of the Drop In sessions at any of the four campuses (http://www.aut.ac.nz/researchethics/resources/workshops-and-drop-inns).
* Applications should be submitted once they have been finalised. For a particular meeting it needs to have been received in the AUTEC Secretariat by 4 pm on the relevant agenda closing day [AUTEC’s meeting dates are listed in the website at http://www.aut.ac.nz/researchethics]. As many applications are reviewed under delegated authority, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications once they are ready rather than waiting for the closing date.
* If sending applications by internal mail, please post them at least two days earlier to allow for any delay that may occur.

Participant Information Sheet

# Date Information Sheet Produced:

28/03/2024

# Project Title

Exploring nurses’ suspicion of child abuse

An Invitation

Greetings, my name is Susan Platt and I am a registered nurse and an AUT staff member in the nursing department. The research I am conducting follows on from my Doctoral research which explored primary nurses experiences when working with children whom they suspect are being abused or neglected. I would like to invite you to participate in the research I am conducting on nurses’ suspicion of child abuse, how they respond to this and any barriers they encounter.

# What is the purpose of this research?

I am wanting to conduct this research because I am passionate about the care of children who may be experiencing abuse. Nurses see children and their families more often than any other health professional, and usually before any other health professional. NZ has the fifth worst child abuse rates out of 31 OECD countries and is therefore a significant concern. Therefore, their stories are important and may help inform early detection and preventive actions.

The findings of this research may be used for academic publications and presentations.

# How was I identified and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

Registered nurses with at least one year practice experience who have worked with children whom they suspect are being abused are invited to participate in this research. Registered nurses who work in primary health and hospital settings are able to participate. You have received this because you have responded to the flyer about this research.

You have been invited because you have the experience and you are the expert!

# How do I agree to participate in this research?

Your participation in this research is voluntary (it is your choice) and whether or not you choose to participate will neither advantage nor disadvantage you. You are able to withdraw from the study at any time. To participate, you will need to complete a Consent Form which I will email to you once you let me know that you would like to participate. If you choose to withdraw from the study, then you will be offered the choice between having any data that is identifiable as belonging to you removed or allowing it to continue to be used. However, once the findings have been produced, removal of your data may not be possible.

# What will happen in this research?

Participation in this research involves attending a focus group interview. The interviews will take place in person at an AUT campus (either North or South campuses). However if there are sufficient numbers of participants who prefer virtual attendance, I will organise a focus group interview to take place using MS Teams. The interviews will take between 1.5-2 hours duration. At the conclusion of each interview, each participant will receive a $30 koha/gift voucher. After the focus group interviews have been transcribed, identifiers will be removed.

# What are the discomforts and risks?

Participants may recall situations that have caused moral distress. At the beginning of each interview, I will be giving information to participants for accessing AUT’s Counselling services should they wish to use this service resulting from participating in this research (contact information is listed in the next section on this information sheet).

Participants will be aware that as registered nurses, they may be legally required to report certain events. These events may fall under the Crimes Act 1961 s195A, where nurses may be legally required to report a child whom they know is at risk of death, grievous bodily harm or sexual assault. It is most unlikely (but there is a small chance) that as the researcher, I perceive that a situation which has been described to me warrants reporting. There is a small possibility I may need to bring to a participants attention, that a situation requires reporting.

# How will these discomforts and risks be alleviated?

The interview can be paused at any time, and you do not have to answer any questions that cause discomfort.

AUT Student Counselling and Mental Health is able to offer three free sessions of confidential counselling support for adult participants in an AUT research project. These sessions are only available for issues that have arisen directly as a result of participation in the research and are not for other general counselling needs. To access these services, you will need to:

* drop into our centre at WB203 City Campus, email counselling@aut.ac.nz or call 921 9292.
* let the receptionist know that you are a research participant, and provide the title of my research and my name and contact details as given in this Information Sheet.

You can find out more information about AUT counsellors and counselling on <https://www.aut.ac.nz/student-life/student-support/counselling-and-mental-health>

# What are the benefits?

For participants, this research is an opportunity to talk about your work. The focus groups provide an opportunity to reflect on your experiences when you have had a suspicion of child abuse. Health professionals’ practice development is significantly improved when reflecting on one’s practice experiences, thus, the focus group interviews may provide a space for you to reflect upon your practice and enable learning and growth from this. Focus groups also allow you to hear other participant’s responses and to form ideas that you may not have thought of. They may also provide the opportunity to know you are not alone in your work. It is expected that those in receipt of nursing care will benefit from the recommendations arising from this research.

# How will my privacy be protected?

All identifiers will be removed from the interview transcript, and participants will be allocated a pseudonym in place of their name. All interview data will be electronically stored in AUT’s OneDrive on an AUT passcode protected device. Consent Forms will be stored electronically in AUT’s OneDrive on an AUT passcode protected device, but in a separate folder to the interview data. Consent Forms and interview data will be stored for a six year period. Any hard copies of the data or Consent Forms will be scanned and uploaded into these folders, with hard copies disposed in the Confidential Document Disposal bin at AUT University.

Any interview voice recordings from the focus group interviews will be recorded on a Dictaphone and uploaded and stored electronically in AUT’s OneDrive on an AUT passcode protected device, which at such time, voice recordings will be deleted from the Dictaphone device. Once transcription on a Word document (data) is received by the transcriber, all voice recordings will be deleted from AUT’s OneDrive storage facility and then deleted from the Recycle Bin.

The transcriber has signed a confidentiality agreement to further protect participants’ privacy.

# What are the costs of participating in this research?

Costs incurred by participants are the transportation to the interview, the time taken to attend the interview of approximately 1.5-2 hours.

# What opportunity do I have to consider this invitation?

From receiving this Information Sheet, there is one month for you to consider participating in this research.

# Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

A summary of the research findings will be emailed to participants. Participants can choose to opt out of receiving this summary if they so wish.

# What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Project Supervisor, Dr Susan Platt, susan.platt@aut.ac.nz, or phone 09 921 9999 ext 7132.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary of AUTEC, *ethics@aut.ac.nz* , (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.

# Whom do I contact for further information about this research?

Please keep this Information Sheet and a copy of the Consent Form for your future reference. You are also able to contact the research team as follows:

Researcher Contact Details:

Researcher: Dr Susan Platt, splatt@aut.ac.nz or phone 09 921 9999 Ext 7132

**Approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee on 16th May 2024, AUTEC Reference number 24/76.**