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## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM

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**Title:** **Talking Scrubs**

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**Description of the study**

Our study is inspired by the popular trend of designer scrubs (with attractive print patterns) in hospital and other settings. Our team (consisting of communication experts and health researchers) are seeking to co-design and test the use of medical scrubs for communication support purposes. We would like to assist patients with complex communication (access) needs (CCAN) and health workers to communicate better.

Many Australians cannot speak or speak well enough to be understood which includes people with neurological conditions, acquired brain injury, intellectual disability and stroke. This is particularly concerning in health settings. To get the help they need, we imagine patients (with CCAN) being able to finger-point or eye-point to icons printed on scrubs e.g., pain scales, yes-no symbols. We envisage that instead of communication boards (often not available or lost in a cupboard) that health staff might embody communication opportunities in their everyday wear of medical scrubs.

The first part of the study involves a survey to find out what people think of the idea of using scrubs. We want to know what you think might be the most important messages needed in health settings. We also want to know what icons/symbols might work best and where they might be best placed on the scrubs. The second part of the study involves a focus group. One of the survey questions will ask if you would like to later join an on-line focus group for the purpose of consolidating the survey data and co-designing a Talking Scrubs sample. There is limited room for focus group participants so we cannot guarantee inclusion of all

interested. If focus group participation interest is high, we will randomly select participants from stakeholder cohort groups.

### **Benefits of the study**

We anticipate your survey responses will contribute to the development of a communication solution that will improve health and well-being for people with CCAN and will help build the communication self-efficacy of health workers. Your information may also help to reduce the adverse events in hospital settings that occur due to communication barriers. We anticipate the knowledge gained from this study will benefit other groups including children without disabilities (or people with temporary speech loss from surgery) who may find it easier to communicate with medical practitioners by using the inbuilt communication icons on scrubs.

### **Participant involvement and potential risks**

If you agree to participate in the research study, you will be asked to complete a short survey which offers you the opportunity to indicate whether you are interested in joining the next part of the study – a focus group. Regardless of your interest in participating in the focus group, your survey responses are sufficient and important and will be received with the upmost care.

### **Withdrawal Rights**

You may decline to take part in this research study. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you may simply opt-out of the survey by refusing to answer any questions / close the internet browser and leave the online survey.

If you indicate yes on the survey that you are interested in joining a focus group and are invited to participate, you have the right to decline the invitation and withdraw from Focus Group discussions at any time. Any contribution you have made to the group that you wish to have removed will be removed. Data recorded during focus group discussions may not be able to be destroyed due to it being collected in a group discussion. However, the data will not be used in this research study without your explicit consent.

### **Confidentiality and Privacy**

Only researchers listed on this form have access to your survey responses.

Researchers will take all possible steps to ensure privacy and confidentiality will be adhered to at all times. If you indicate you would like to join a focus group you will be asked to provide an email or phone number for contact. Your contact details will not be connected to your survey responses (this will ensure your survey remains anonymous).

If you choose to join the focus group, and are invited to participate, you will be required to provide your name and contact details and to sign a participant consent form. You will be known to the research team and other focus group participants. All participants will be required to maintain confidentiality and not disclose to a third party any issues discussed during the focus groups. The research outcomes may be presented at conferences, written up for publication or used for other research purposes as described in this information form. You will not be named, and your individual information will not be identifiable in any research products without your explicit consent. No data, including identifiable, non-identifiable and de-identified datasets, will be shared or used in future research projects without your explicit consent.

Please provide your consent to this by ticking the appropriate box on the Consent Form at the end of this form. Data Storage The information collected will be stored securely on a password protected computer and/or Flinders University server throughout the study. Any identifiable data will be de-identified for data

storage purposes unless indicated otherwise. All data will be securely transferred to and stored at Flinders University for seven years, 12 months after publication of the results. Following the required data storage period, all data will be securely destroyed according to university protocols. Recognition of Contribution / Time / Travel costs We are unable to provide any recognition of contribution payments or vouchers.

### **How will I receive feedback?**

On project completion, a short summary of the outcomes will be provided to all participants via a return email to recruitment services or posted on recruitment agency website or social media pages such as Accessible Adelaide, ISAAC Australia and AGOSCI.

### **Approval**

**The project has been approved by Flinders University's Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC 6518).**

### **Queries and Concerns**

Queries or concerns regarding the research can be directed to the research team. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Flinders University's Research Ethics and Compliance Office team either via telephone (08) 8201 2543 or by emailing the Office via [human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au](mailto:human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au). Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet which is yours to keep.

By completing/submitting this survey, you are consenting to participate in this study and to the conditions outlined in the Participant Information Form.