# Investigating the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of an education package to improve speech pathologists' competence for community aphasia group facilitation

| The research is being carried out in partial fulfilment of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) under the supervision of Professor Miranda Rose. The following researchers will be conducting the study: | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Role** | **Name** | **Organisation** |
| PhD Candidate | Ms Kathryn Pettigrove | School of Allied Health, Human Sciences and Sport; Aphasia Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery and Rehabilitation. |
| Principal Investigator | Prof Miranda Rose | School of Allied Health, Human Sciences and Sport; Aphasia Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery and Rehabilitation. |
| Co-investigator | Dr Lucette Lanyon | School of Allied Health, Human Sciences and Sport; Aphasia Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery and Rehabilitation. |
| Co-investigator | Dr Michelle Attard | School of Allied Health, Human Sciences and Sport; Aphasia Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery and Rehabilitation. |
| **Research funder** | This research has received funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council as part of the Centre of Research Excellence for Aphasia Recovery ad Rehabilitation (Grant #1153236). The PhD Candidate is the recipient of a La Trobe University Research Training Program Scholarship. | |

1. **What is the study about?**
   You are invited to participate in a study investigating an education package for speech language pathologists (SLPs). The package has been designed to improve SLPs' knowledge of community aphasia groups (CAGs) – in particular to improve the skills required to facilitate CAGs, and to support volunteers and peers with aphasia to facilitate them.

   In the first phase of the research, speech pathologists completed the education package and provided feedback on it. In this second phase of the research, we hope to learn whether the updated education package improves SLPs' self-perceived facilitator competence.

2. **Do I have to participate?**
   Being part of this study is voluntary. If you want to be part of the study we ask that you read the information below carefully and ask us any questions.

   You can read the information below and decide at the end if you do not want to participate. If you decide not to participate this won't affect your relationship with La Trobe University or any other listed organisation.

3. **Who is being asked to participate?**
   You are eligible to participate in this research if you:
   - Are eligible to be a certified practicing member of Speech Pathology Australia
   - Live in an Eastern state or territory of Australia (ACT, NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, TAS)
   - Currently work with individuals with aphasia who live in the community (e.g., hospital or community outpatient services, home-based rehabilitation).
   - Have access to a computer with a camera and microphone, and internet sufficient to support meetings via Zoom

   You **may or may not** have had previous experience in the delivery of CAGs, and you **may or may not** have received previous training in group facilitation.

**4. What will I be asked to do?**

If you would like to take part in this study, we will ask you to:

- Complete a demographic survey (approx. 10 minutes)
- Complete a survey about your self-perceived competence to facilitate CAGs – once before, once immediately after, and once four weeks after completing the education package (approx. 10 minutes each). Participants randomised to the waitlist control will also complete the survey 4 weeks before commencing the education package.
- Complete the **education package** over a **four-week period**, including:
    - Self-paced online modules (approx. 9 hours total)
    - Two small online group workshops over Zoom (2.5 hours each)

| Weeks 1 to 2 | End Week 2 | Weeks 3 to 4 | End Week 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Complete modules 1-4 at own pace (5hrs total) | Workshop 1 (2.5 hours) | Complete modules 5-7 at own pace (4hrs total) | Workshop 2 (2.5 hours) |

- Complete a post-training satisfaction survey (approx. 5 minutes)
- You **may** also be invited to participate in a semi-structured interview about your experiences of the education package (approx. 1 hour), however this is **optional**, and will not impact your participation in the education package.

It is estimated that it will take approximately 15 hours of your time over 8 weeks (intervention) or 12 weeks (waitlist control) to be part of this study (**please note:** the time commitment for the education package itself spans only 4 weeks, as per the table above. There is no time commitment in the weeks between the package and follow-up survey). Your decision to participate in research is voluntary.

**5. What are the benefits?**

Benefits of you taking part in this study include that you may improve your knowledge and skills for facilitating community aphasia groups, and training and supporting other aphasia group facilitators. Long-term benefits to society in general may include supporting a larger number of CAGs to be available to individuals with aphasia, promoting high quality facilitation for CAGs, fostering a wider range of CAGs with different facilitation models, improving the autonomy and wellbeing of individuals with aphasia, and increasing community awareness of aphasia.

**6. What are the risks?**

With any study there are (1) risks we know about, (2) risks we don't know about and (3) risks we don't expect. If you experience something that you aren't sure about, please contact us immediately so we can discuss the best way to manage your concerns.

| Name/Organisation | Position | Telephone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kathryn Pettigrove / La Trobe University; Aphasia CRE | PhD Candidate | (03) 9479 5559 | k.pettigrove@latrobe.edu.au |
| Prof Miranda Rose / La Trobe University; Aphasia CRE | Principal Investigator | (03) 9479 5559 | aphasiacre@latrobe.edu.au |

We have listed the risks we know about below. This will help you decide if you want to be part of the study.

- You may find the online modules, workshops and/or semi-structured interview tiring or frustrating at times
- You may be recognised in the workshops by other study participants

We do not foresee any other risks associated with this study.

**7. What will happen to information about me?**

We will **collect** information about you in ways that will reveal who you are.

We will **store** information about you in ways that will reveal who you are.

We will **publish** information about you in ways that **will not** be identified in any type of publication from this study.

We will **keep** your information for 5 years after the project is completed. After this time we will destroy all of your data.

The storage, transfer and destruction of your data will be undertaken in accordance with the Research Data Management Policy https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/.

The personal information you provide will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws, any health information collected will be handled in accordance with the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Subject to any exceptions in relevant laws, you have the right to access and correct your personal information by contacting the research team.

**8. Will I hear about the results of the study?**

We will let you know about the results of the study following completion of the candidate's PhD research. The results of the study may also be available and disseminated in future academic publications. We will provide you with these results over email if you elect to be contacted for this purpose.

**9. What if I change my mind?**

You can choose to no longer be part of the study at any time until four weeks following the collection of your data. You can let us know by:

1. Completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' (provided at the end of this document) and sending it as an email attachment to Kathryn Pettigrove at k.pettigrove@latrobe.edu.au; or
2. Calling her on (03) 9479 5559; or
3. Simply emailing her

You can stop taking part in the semi-structured interview at any time and leave without having to give a reason. However, any contributions you have made to the discussion cannot be withdrawn.

Your decision to withdraw at any point will **not** affect your relationship with La Trobe University or the Aphasia CRE.

When you withdraw we will stop asking you for information. Any identifiable information about you will be withdrawn from the research study.

**10. Who can I contact for questions or more information?**

If you would like to speak to us, please use the contact details below:

| Name/Organisation | Position | Telephone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kathryn Pettigrove / La Trobe University; Aphasia CRE | PhD Candidate | (03) 9479 5559 | k.pettigrove@latrobe.edu.au |
| Miranda Rose / La Trobe University; Aphasia CRE | Principal Investigator / Supervisor | (03) 9479 5559 | m.rose@latrobe.edu.au |

**11. What if I have a complaint?**

If you have a complaint about any part of this study, please contact:

| Ethics Reference Number | Position | Telephone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| HEC23517 | Senior Research Ethics Officer | +61 3 9479 1443 | humanethics@latrobe.edu.au |

**Consent Form – Declaration by Participant**

I (the participant) have read (or, where appropriate, have had read to me) and understood the participant information statement, and any questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in the study, I know I can withdraw at any time until four weeks following the collection of my data. I agree information provided by me or with my permission during the project may be included in a thesis, presentation and published in journals on the condition that I cannot be identified.

☐ I agree to be contacted via email about potential participation in a semi-structured interview (approx. 1 hour) Ffollowing completion of the education package
☐ If attending a semi-structured interview, I agree to have this interview audio recorded
☐ I would like to receive a copy of the results via email or post. I have provided my details below and ask that they only be used for this purpose and not stored with my information or for future contact.

| Name | Email (optional) | Postal address (optional) |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**Participant Signature**

☐ I have received a signed copy of the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form to keep

| | |
|---|---|
| Participant's printed name | |
| Participant's signature | |
| Date | |

**Declaration by Researcher**

☐ I have given a verbal explanation of the study, what it involves, and the risks and I believe the participant has understood;
☐ I am a person qualified to explain the study, the risks and answer questions

| | |
|---|---|
| Researcher's printed name | |
| Researcher's signature | |
| Date | |

* All parties must sign and date their own signature

**Withdrawal of Consent**

I wish to withdraw my consent to participate in this study. I understand withdrawal will not affect my relationship with La Trobe University of any other organisation or professionals listed in the Participant Information Statement. I understand the researchers cannot withdraw my information once it has been analysed.

**I understand my information will be withdrawn as outlined below:**

- ✓ Any identifiable information about me will be withdrawn from the study
- ✓ The researchers will withdraw my contact details so I cannot be contacted by them in the future studies unless I have given separate consent for my details to be kept in a participant registry.
- ✓ The researchers cannot withdraw my information once it has been analysed, and/or collected as part of an interview

I would like my already collected and unanalysed data

☐ Destroyed and not used for any analysis

☐ Used for analysis

**Participant Signature**

| | |
|---|---|
| Participant's printed name | |
| Participant's signature | |
| Date | |

**Please forward this form to:**

| | |
|---|---|
| CI Name | Prof Miranda Rose |
| Email | m.rose@latrobe.edu.au |
| Phone | (03) 9479 5559 |
| Postal Address | Room 213, Level 2, Health Sciences Building 1<br>La Trobe University<br>1 Kingsbury Drive Bundoora Vic 3086 |