



## What is our research project?

This information sheet is about a research project looking at technology use in the home for people with spinal cord or traumatic brain injury.

The research is being done by our inclusive research team.

This means there are university researchers and researchers with SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) on our team. We work together to do the research. Some money has been provided by NIISQ to help cover the costs.

NIISQ will not have access to any of your individual data

If you join our project this will not affect any services or funding that you may receive



The person in charge of our research is:

Michele Verdonck

She is an Associate Professor in Occupational Therapy at the University of the Sunshine Coast.



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## The people helping with the research are:



**Jacquie Ripat**

She works with UniSC and is co-supervising the research to make sure it is well done



**Gordana Dermody**

She is a co-researcher and works at UniSC



**Joanna Fowler**

She is a co-researcher with spinal cord injury who uses technology in her own home and works at UniSC



**Bridie Kean**

She is a co-researcher with lived experience of disability and a para-athlete who works at UniSC



**Katharina Merollini**

She is a co-researcher and works at UniSC



**Dana Craven**

She is the research project manager and works at UniSC



## **What is this study about?**

The project is looking at technology that people with spinal cord or traumatic brain injury use in their home



## **Who funds this study?**

The project is supported by the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) and the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland (NIISQ)

## **Why are we doing this research?**

We want to know:



- What types of electronic technology you use in your home
- What barriers you may have to using technology in your home
  - What it means to you using technology in your home
- The value of electronic technology in your home

## How will this research help?

By being part of the research, you will help us to learn:

- What technology use means to you
- How you use technology in your home
- What technology is most important and helpful
- What barriers there are to using the technology

This information will help us to:

- Know more about technology use in the home for people like you
- Find out what people need to learn to use technology
- Teach others, including government, service providers and families about technology use in the home



## What will you be asked to do?

To take part in this project you or your guardian will need to agree by giving consent.



We would like you to answer some questions about you for example your age, the nature of your disability, what types of assistive technology devices you use.



This can be done using an online form or we can help you do this. It will take about 15-20 minutes.



We would also like you to have an interview with a researcher so we can find out more about how you use technology in your own home.



This interview will take about one hour and can be done online or via the phone.



## You can choose how to complete the interview

You may choose to meet one time or break it up into smaller intervals that suit you.

You are welcome to bring a support person you trust to the interview.



If it is OK with you, the meetings will be recorded and typed out.

**After the interview, we would also like you to attend the second part of the research study, a World Café event**

### **What are we asking you to do in the World Café?**

If you agree to be part of this second part of the research study, you will be asked to:

- Attend a round table discussion called a World Café which is a meeting with other people with traumatic brain injury.
- A researcher will lead discussions with the group about your experience using technology in your home.
- This will take approximately 2.5 hours and can be face to face at the University of the Sunshine Coast or you can attend online.



## **Possible risks – what could be bad about being part of the research?**

- It will take up some of your time to do the survey and interview.
- You are volunteering to be part of the project. We will give you \$75 to go towards your costs after you complete the survey and interview.
- Sometimes thinking about the questions discussed during the interview might create uncomfortable or distressing feelings.
- You are not required to answer any questions you don't want to, and you may discontinue or pause your participation at any time if required.
- If you need to talk to someone you may wish to contact family or friends/your General Practitioner/Lifeline (131114)/Beyond Blue (1300 224 636).

## **Can I stop being part of the research?**

- You can say not be being part of the study at any time.
- To stop being part of the study talk to the research team.



## **How will we keep your information private?**

- Only researchers who are part of this study can see your information.
- We will keep your information private at all times.

- We will not talk about your information outside of this research.
- We may use your information as part of our research for:
  - Conferences/talks
  - Written up for publication. This means we might write articles about it.
  - Videos, easy read fact sheets or other easy to understand ways of sharing the research.
- We will not name you when we share information unless you say it is ok. We will not use your real name in any transcripts. We will use a different name in any reports or papers.
- We will not use any of your information for future research unless you say it is ok.
- It is important to know that others may know you have participated in the research if they see you with the researcher.

## **How will we keep your information safe?**

- We will keep your information on a computer that has a password.
- We will not keep your personal details on the information we keep.
- Your information needs to be kept for five years if you finish the study. After five years your information will be destroyed.





## How will we let you know how the research goes?

- At the end of the research, we will send you an Easy Read report about what we find out.



## Ethics Committee Approval

- Our research has ethics approval. This means it has been checked over to make sure we are doing it right and safely.
- The ethics committee that approved our research is University of the Sunshine Coast Ethics Committee (ethics number A242174).



## Queries and Concerns – Questions

- If you have any questions about this research, you can contact the research team.
- If you think we are not doing the research right or safely you can contact the Chair of the UniSC Human Research Ethics Committee: telephone (07) 5430 2823 or email [humanethics@usc.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@usc.edu.au).



**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet 😊**