World Café community forum: To examine views and preferences of older people about falls prevention health-related information

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR: Associate Professor Anne-Marie Hill  
PhD CANDIDATE RESEARCHER: Ms Linda Khong

Dear Forum Participant,

We would like to invite you to participate in this community forum. The aim of holding this forum is to examine the views and preferences of people 60 years and over about seeking and receiving falls prevention information. We know from previous research that there is a gap in understanding what older people consider as being ‘appealing’ falls prevention information. The findings from this forum will influence how future falls prevention education will be presented to older peoples in Western Australia.

This forum is being undertaken as part of a research study and is funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Collaborative Research Network. It is being conducted by Linda Khong and will form the basis for a doctoral degree at The University of Notre Dame Australia, under the supervision of Associate Professor Anne-Marie Hill. Permission to carry out the forum has been obtained from The University of Notre Dame Australia Human Research Ethics Committee.

When you arrive at the forum you will be asked to complete an anonymous confidential survey taking approximately 3 minutes that includes asking how old you are and whether you have had any falls in the past 12 months. These survey questions help the researchers to know the range of older persons providing input to the forum.

The forum will be run in a format called World Café. This is a conversational process to encourage an interactive sharing of views on questions raised related to falls prevention health-related information. In brief, it will involve conversations at small tables with about 5 - 8 people for about 15-20 minutes on a question/topic, and then moving to the next question/topic for the next 15-20 minutes. It is envisaged the round of conversations will take about 2 hours including; this includes a free morning tea and regular breaks as table changes take place.
Information discussed at the table will be summarised by a researcher at each table and a forum facilitator will present the discussion points to the whole audience, including a summary at the end of the session. The researchers will use all the views and thoughts of the forum to understand how and when falls prevention information could be best presented to older people in an appealing format.

The forum will be photographed, video-taped and audio-recorded. The visual recording or photographs will mainly focus on the presenters and only use wide shots of the audience with no zoom in on any one participant. If you prefer not to be on the video at all please inform the table host and you will be invited to move out of range when any recording at your table will be conducted.

We would like to assure you that all the information gathered for this study will be held in strict confidence. All data gathered at the forum will be collected with no names or identifying information linked to the information gathered. Data collected will be stored securely at The University of Notre Dame Australia for five years. Any reports or publications from the data will also contain no names or identifying information attached.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are not under any obligation to participate. There are no foreseeable risks in participating in this study. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw at any time without adverse consequences, however, any data collected up to that point will remain in the database as it is not possible for the researchers to separate out any one individual person’s contributions at the cafe. Please contact the research team if you wish to participate and you will be required to sign a consent form. Thank you for your time in considering participating in our study. If you have any queries regarding the research, please contact any of the research team by phone or email.

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Yours sincerely,

Linda Khong

_The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Notre Dame Australia (approval number 014128F). If participants have any complaint regarding the manner in which a research project is conducted, it should be directed to the Executive Officer of the Human Research Ethics Committee, Research Office, The University of Notre Dame Australia, PO Box 1225 Fremantle WA 6959, phone (08) 9433 0943, research@nd.edu.au_