Multiparous women's understanding and experiences of induction of labour in regional Australia.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Introduction

I am undertaking a research project that seeks to explore women's understanding and experiences of induction of labour. In particular, I am seeking the views of women who are pregnant with (or have birthed in the last 30 days) their second or subsequent child. If this describes you, and you are either: booked to have your labour induced, or have had your labour induced at Lismore Base Hospital within the last 30 days, you are invited to take part in this project. You need to have had at least one episode of care through Lismore Base Hospital (regardless of previous model of care).

The study intends to help care providers understand what women know about induction of labour prior to birth, and what women's experiences of having their labour induced is like. Participating in the study will involve taking part in two, one-to-one interviews: the first will occur after you have agreed to and booked a date for your induction of labour (but before your labour is induced); the second will occur within 30 days after you have birthed your baby. Participation in both interviews is ideal, however you are still eligible to participate if you choose to participate in only one interview.

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Why is this research important?

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what is involved. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information you can contact the researchers (as above).

It is important for care providers to understand whether or not the information we give you about induction of labour is relevant, understandable, and useful, and also for us to understand what your experience of having your labour induced is like. There is currently limited research about women's experiences of induction of labour, particularly the views of women who have already had a baby and live within regional Australia. This study will focus on these topics, along with exploring whether having a previous experience of childbirth influences women's experiences of their current childbearing journey.

Who can participate in the research?

Multiparous women (woman who have already borne a child) with a singleton pregnancy (pregnant with one baby), who are either: booked for an induction of labour at Lismore Base Hospital, or have undergone an induction of labour and given birth at Lismore Base Hospital within the last 30 days.

Can you bring a support person?

Yes, you are very welcome to have a support person with you throughout the interview process. As interviews will occur online due to the risk posed by COVID-19, they can either sit with you during the interview, or if they are not in the same physical location as you, they can be provided with a link so that they can log in to the same online meeting, from wherever they are located.

Consent to participate

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to participate in this research, this will not affect your current or future care in any way. Your care providers will not be told whether or not you chose to participate. If you wish to withdraw from the research once it has started, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason, and this will not affect your current or future care in any way. If you do choose to withdraw, the data gathered by the researchers during the project will be kept unless you specifically ask for your data to be withdrawn

What is required of you in this research study? If you agree to participate, the following will happen:

Part A: Information Sheet and Consent Form:

1. You will read this information sheet.
2. You can clarify any information by contacting the researchers and asking any questions.
3. You will sign the consent form (if you wish to participate).
4. You will return the signed consent form to the researchers by email, or by hand to:
   Melody Atkinson, 0422751508, email- m.atkinson.25@student.scu.edu.au

Part B:

Interview 1: 30 to 40-minute interview, taking place after your induction of labour is booked, and prior to you having your labour induced. This interview will explore your understanding of information provided to you about induction of labour, and your feelings about having your labour induced.

- You will be invited to attend an interview with the researcher at a time that is convenient to you. Due to the risk posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, the interview will take place online, using Skype for Business (you will be sent a link that you can click on to access the secure, online interview space).
- Prior to the interview, you will be provided with an interview preparation sheet.
- The interview will be recorded, but you may ask for the recording to be paused at any time if you wish to say something 'off the record'. The interview will then be transcribed. You will be provided with an opportunity to read the transcript, and to add, omit or correct any information you wish, prior to it being used in the study.

Interview 2: 30 to 40-minute interview, after you have birthed your baby, within 30 days after your birth. This interview will explore your labour and birth experience. It will also explore how your understanding of induction of labour prior to birth compared to your experience of having your labour induced.

- You will be invited to attend an interview with the researcher at a time that is convenient to you. Due to the risk posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, the interview will take place online using Skype for Business.
- Prior to the interview, you will be provided with an interview preparation sheet.
- The interview will be recorded, but you may ask for the recording to be paused at any time if you wish to say something 'off the record'. The interview will then be transcribed. You will be provided with an opportunity to read the transcript, and to add, omit or correct any information you wish, prior to it being used in the study.

Benefits

This study will add to health care providers' understanding what information women need to know about induction of labour, and how women experience the process of induction of labour. This deeper understanding will help drive improvements to how care providers help women to make informed decisions and will help develop better resources to keep women at the centre of the care that we provide. This study will also contribute a modern perspective to the current knowledge base and identify areas for new research.

Risks

There is a risk that if you experienced a traumatic birth, you may become distressed when you are asked questions about your birth experience. With this in mind, questions will be worded sensitively, and you will be in control of what information you chose to share. You do not need to divulge anything that is distressing for you. Participation in the study may also cause you to become distressed if you experience an unexpected outcome as part of your labour/birth experience and you are asked to recount this experience. If you do become distressed, the interview will be stopped. You will be reminded that participation is voluntary, and that you can withdraw your participation at any time. Your wellbeing is the first priority and always comes before your participation in the study. If you do decide to withdraw from the study, this will have no effect on your ongoing care.

If you do become distressed as a result of participation in the study you will be given contact details for appropriate support services such as: Lifeline (phone 131114 or click on the link https://www.lifeline.org.au/about/contact-us) or Beyond Blue (phone

1300 22 4636 or click on link https://www.beyondblue.org.au/about-us/contact-us). You will also be offered a referral to a social worker, who will be able to assist you with appropriate support and it will be recommended that you contact your regular care provider. The data obtained by the researchers during the project will be retained unless you specifically request your data be withdrawn.

Sponsorship
One of the researchers (M. Atkinson) is conducting this study under a scholarship received from Northern NSW Local Health District.

Cost to Participants
You will not receive any payment for participating, nor will it cost you any money.

Confidentiality
The data you provide will be de-identified and secure. All electronic data will be stored on a secure computer, requiring a unique password. All paper data will be stored within a locked cabinet in a locked private office. Findings of the research using the de-identified data will be used in reports, publications and/or conference presentations.

Questions/further information about the project
If you require further information about the research, please contact the researchers listed at the top of this page. Feedback about the completed results can be obtained if requested. Please provide contact details such as an email or postal address to be sent a report.

Concerns/complaints regarding the conduct of the project
This study has been reviewed by both the Southern Cross Human Research Ethics Committees and North Coast NSW Human Research Ethics Committee.

If you, at any stage, have any concerns or complaints about this study you may contact the North Coast NSW Human Research Ethics Committee on:

Executive Officer
North Coast NSW Human Research Ethics Committee
PO Box 821
Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Ph: 02 6672 0269
Email: EthicsNCNSW@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Thank you for taking the time to consider this study.
This information sheet is for you to keep.
If you wish to take part in it, please sign the attached consent form