



Participant Information Sheet

Survey of Naturopaths

Project Title: *Naturopathic treatments for women with infertility and/or diminished ovarian reserve: a provider's perspective*

Project Summary:

The purpose of this study is to explore the approach Australian and New Zealand naturopaths take in their care of women with infertility and/or diminished ovarian reserve (DOR).

Naturopaths play a vital role in successful management of women seeking help with fertility, however, little is known about how they manage their care. In particular, management of women with diminished ovarian reserve (DOR) or with fewer eggs remaining compared to what would be expected for their age. This condition may be indicated when women present with a low anti-mullerian hormone, high for age follicle stimulating hormone levels or with a diagnosis of DOR from a medical specialist. It may also be discovered during the course of naturopathic treatment for other conditions. This research project aims to develop insight into naturopaths' decisions, care and management of women with DOR. It also will inform the development of a naturopathic intervention for investigation in a randomised controlled trial.

You are eligible to participate if you:

- currently practice in Australia or New Zealand
- are a member of a naturopathic association that is recognised by the World Naturopathic Federation such as:
 - Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA)
 - Complementary Medicine Association (CMA)
 - Australian register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH)
 - Naturopaths and Medical Herbalists New Zealand (NMHNZ)
- have been in clinical practice for five or more years
- see women that seek help with reproduction and infertility

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

This survey is being conducted as part of a PhD project of Ms Alison Maunder under the supervision of Dr Carolyn Ee, Dr Mike Armour, Dr Susan Arentz at the NICM Health Research Institute at Western Sydney University. It has Ethics approval (H14256 March 2021).

How is the study being paid for?

There has been no funding sought or provided for this project. Ms Maunder's position as a PhD candidate is supported by a scholarship from the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to complete an anonymous, online survey that will ask you about

- Your practice in general
- Your treatment of infertility and/or diminished ovarian reserve
- Your experience of interprofessional communication
- Demographics

How much of my time will I need to give?

We have piloted the survey with naturopaths and have found the survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

By gaining an insight into the behaviours and perspectives of naturopaths, we will be able to better describe the contribution that naturopaths are making to the health and wellbeing of women with infertility and/or diminished ovarian reserve. No reimbursements for participation will be provided.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or discomfort associated with taking part in this study.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that the participant cannot be identified. As survey responses are anonymous, your responses will not be able to identify you at all.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

No. Your data will remain with the investigators of this research.

What will happen with my information if I agree to it being used in projects other than this one?

Thank you for considering being a participant in a University research project. The researchers are asking that you agree to supply your information (data) for use in this project and to also agree to allow the data to potentially be used in future research projects.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

You have been asked to agree to extended consent.

Extended consent

When you agree to extended consent it means that you agree that your data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project

- in the same general area of this research.

The researchers will allow this data to be used by other researchers who wish to conduct research on naturopathy, infertility and/or diminished ovarian reserve

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at the University in its data repository and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use will not have information in it that makes you identifiable. The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

The researchers want to keep the data for a significant period of time (in excess of 15 years) for possible re-use – until it is felt that it is no longer needed for research. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do start the survey, you can stop at any time and exit the survey without completing it. Submitting your completed questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. Due to anonymity, your responses cannot be retracted following submission.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by forwarding the link to the online survey.

What if I require further information?

Please contact Alison Maunder should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate via email address: (a.maunder2@westernsydney.edu.au) or phone 0417800355.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Integrity and Ethics on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H14256.