

Application Form for ethical consideration of research and teaching proposals involving human participants



Te Whare Wananga o Otago

**APPLICATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO HUMAN ETHICS
COMMITTEE FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL OF A RESEARCH
OR TEACHING PROPOSAL INVOLVING HUMAN
PARTICIPANTS**

Notes: *PLEASE read carefully the important notes on the last page of this form. Failure to do so may delay the consideration of your application.*

- 1. Name of Applicant:** *Fitzgerald Ruth Dr.*
- 2. Department:** *Anthropology*
- 3. Title of Project:** *Nurse Prescribing in Rural Southern New Zealand*
- 4. Brief Description of the Purpose of the Project** *This is a qualitative research project which investigates the perceptions of rural nurses and rural nurse practitioners on their need for prescribing rights and their understanding of their role in terms of the title “nurse practitioner”. Data will be obtained from participants via semistructured interviews on the topic of prescribing rights and also on the current extent of informal arrangements with local GPs which, in effect, already constitute such rights. These interviews will be carried out in person in approximately 20 sites around Southern New Zealand. Some (2) interviews will also be carried out over the telephone with the small number of nurses who have been awarded the Masters of Nursing degree from the University of Auckland thereby fulfilling Nursing Council requirements to become Nurse Practitioners, (again with the intention of discussing their understanding of the role of the nurse practitioner and their interest in prescribing rights).*
- 5. Other investigators or instructors:** *none*
- 6. Projected Start Date of Project:** *November 2002*

Projected End Date of Project: *March 2003*

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7. **Funding of Project:** Is the project to be funded in any way from sources external to the University of Otago?

NO If yes, please specify who is funding the project:

Was the funding processed through:

- The Research Office
- Innovate Otago

8. **Type of Project** Staff Research **Is this a repeated class teaching activity?** No

9. **Aim and Description of Project** (Clearly specify aims. If there is a hypothesis it must be testable. Specify inclusion and exclusion criteria. Identify the end-point of the project)

The aim is to investigate the concept of “nurse practitioner” and self assessed needs for prescribing rights for a group of mainly rural nurses working in a variety of practices. These nurses are employed by a wide variety of institutions,: ie self employed nurses associated with the Independent Nurse Practitioners Association (IPA), nurses employed in rural GP’s private practices, nurses employed by Community Trusts, and possibly two groups of nurses employed by the West Coast and the Southland District Health boards. The aim is to elicit the variety of their opinions on a topic which has become increasingly controversial (the “nurse practitioner”). This controversy is particularly apparent between the Nursing Council and the IPA (who both lay claim to the title) and is also regarded with mixed feelings by the medical fraternity. Information on these topics will be obtained via open ended interviews on the subjects. In preparatory discussions with the various organisations involved in this project the Nursing Council have indicated that in addition to the rural nurses I had originally planned to interview they would also like me to interview the recent graduates of the Master of Nursing programme at Auckland as these are the only people (according to the Council of Nurses) who are entitled to call themselves nurse practitioners here in New Zealand. These interviews will be conducted via telephone.

Inclusion Criteria: Practising as a nurse in rural Southern New Zealand (apart from the two interviewees suggested by the Council of Nurses)

Exclusion Criteria: Unavailable for interview Nov 2002 – March 2003

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Endpoint of the project: Completion of 25 interviews or March 2003 whichever comes first.

10. Researcher or Instructor Qualifications

What experience do the researchers or instructors have in this type of research or teaching activity?

6 years of experience in qualitative research methods in general with a specific area expertise in the field of medical anthropology. I also contribute to teaching in qualitative research methods in the Anthropology Department.

11. Participants

Participants means any person:

- Whose behaviour, actions, condition, state of health etc the researcher proposes to study; or
- Whose personal information the researcher proposes to collect or use; or
- Other than an instructor, who participates in a teaching activity that requires ethical clearance; and includes subjects, clients, informants, students and patients.
 - a. Population from which participants are drawn (in particular, please specify whether any of the following might participate: minors, prisoners, hospital patients, or anyone whose capacity to give informed consent is compromised in any way)
 - b. Number of participants 25
 - c. Age range of participants 21 - 65
 - d. Method of recruitment *Recruitment is through the IPA for those nurses who belong to this organisation, through their private employer for the nurses who work with GPs, through direct request to the Community Health Centers and through the Directors of Nursing at Grey Hospital and Kew Hospital.*
 - e. Please specify any payment or reward to be offered *None*

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- 12. Methods and Procedures:** Describe the nature of the task required of participants and the various precautionary measures to be taken to avoid harm or discomfort if appropriate (up to 1 or 2 pages; any questionnaire or survey form to be used must be attached).

The nurses will be asked to participate in a face to face interview with the researcher in a location and at a time of their choice. The interview will be open ended around the topic of the meaning to them of the term “nurse practitioner”, their interest in prescribing rights and their collegial relationships with local GPs in relation to prescribing.

These are the questions which will form the basis of the discussion:

- *Can you tell me what you think of the idea of the nurse practitioner?*
- *Do you consider yourself to be one?*
- *Are prescribing rights fundamental to being a nurse practitioner?*
- *Can you tell me how you manage to get prescriptions in your practice?*

These interviews are expected to last for about 50 minutes and will be recorded. The participants will receive a transcript of their interview which they can then edit.

To avoid harm, the interviews will be confidential and no identifying material will be included in them. The interviewees will have an information sheet to peruse before considering whether to contribute. They will sign a consent form indicating their agreement. They will be advised that they may withdraw at any time from the project. The telephone interviews will not be recorded however these participants will receive a short summary of their main points of conversation from the interviews.

- 13. The Privacy Act 1993 and the Health Information Privacy Code 1994 impose strict requirements concerning the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. These questions allow the committee to assess compliance.**

Note: Personal information is information concerning an identifiable individual

- a. Are you collecting personal information **directly** from the individual concerned?

YES

If you are collecting the information **indirectly**, please explain why:

- b. If you are collecting personal information **directly** from the individual concerned, specify the steps you are taking to ensure that the participants are aware of:-

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- the fact that you are collecting the information
- the purpose for which you are collecting the information and the uses you propose to make of it
- who will receive the information
- the consequences, if any, of not supplying the information
- the individual's rights of access to and correction of personal information

*This will be achieved via the **Information Sheet for Participants**.*

- c. If you do not propose to take one or more of the steps listed in (b) above, please explain why: *N/A*
- d. Please outline your **storage and security procedures** to guard against unauthorised access, use or disclosure and how long you propose to keep personal information (Information Privacy Principle 9 requires that you keep personal information for no longer than is required for the purposes for which the information may lawfully be used).

The interview tapes will be stored for 5 years in a locked storage facility of the Anthropology Department. The transcripts and electronic files of the interviews will be deleted as soon as the research has been written up. The interviews will be transcribed by a professional typist with locked storage facilities of the tapes in her care who is aware of the need for strict confidentiality regarding the content of the interviews.

- e. Please explain how you will ensure that you collect or use only that personal information which is accurate, up to date, complete, relevant and not misleading:

All participants will be asked to view their own transcripts to ensure accuracy.

- f. How will you use the personal information?

The information will be stored without any personally identifying comments or remarks so that the interviews can be coded for common themes and paradoxes according to standard social science protocols.

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- g. Who do you propose will have access to personal information, under what conditions, and subject to what safeguards against unauthorised disclosure? In what form do you propose to publish any personal information?

Apart from the transcriber, only I will have access to this information.. The transcriber will be impressed with the need for complete confidentiality of this information. The transcriber is a professional person with a locked facility for safeguarding data while it is in her care. No tapes or interview transcripts will bear the participant's names. No personal information which can be identified will be published. All interview comments will be assigned a pseudonym in any publication.

- h. Do you propose to assign a unique identifier to an individual? If so, is this unique identifier one that any other agency uses for that individual?

Yes a coded unique identifier will be assigned to each participant and no, it is not used by any other agency.

- i. What arrangements will be made for the eventual disposal of personal information, by what means, and who will have responsibility for ensuring that this is done?

The tapes will be erased under the direction of the HOD (Anthropology) in 5 years time.

- j. Do you propose to collect information on ethnicity? NO

- 14. Potential Problems:** Explain whether there will be harm or discomfort to participants, medical or legal problems, or problems of community relations or controversy, or whether any conflicts of interest might arise (up to 1 page). Researchers also have an obligation to be available after participants have participated in the project, should any stress, harm, or related concerns arise. Participants normally should have the opportunity to obtain information relating to the outcome of the project if they wish.

There is some community controversy over the right to use the title Nurse Practitioner at the moment with the IPA and the Nursing Council in dispute. I have spoken to both organisations in the preliminary discussions around this research and they are both happy for me to proceed with the project. I have advised them that I will be supplying both of them with the results of my research. All participants will be given my card so that they may contact when they wish. An electronic copy of the paper resulting from this research will be supplied to each interviewee on request. All organisations involved in facilitating access to these nurses has been promised a hard copy of the research results.

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15. Informed Consent

Please **attach** the information sheet and the consent form to this application. **The information sheet and consent form must be separate.**

16. Debriefing

Does the research or teaching project involve any form of deception?

NO

If yes, please explain all debriefing procedures.

17. Fast-Track Procedure

Do you request fast-track consideration?

NO

18. Other committees

If any other ethics committee has considered or will consider the proposal which is the subject of this application, please advise details:

A discussion of the suitability of this committee to approve this research was carried out between [REDACTED] and myself in early October. The decision was made to apply to this committee only.