



DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Participants' Invitation: A qualitative study

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF SPECIALIZED WHEELCHAIR SEATING SERVICING WITHIN AUSTRALIA: THE STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVE

This study is seeking **care providers** with recent experience of assisting someone through the process to upgrade (or acquire) an integrated wheelchair-seating system to meet complex mobility needs.

The research invites participants from four stakeholder groups, who have within three years, participated in specialized wheelchair seating services in Australia. There four stakeholder groups invited:

1. **Adult consumers** who rely on their wheelchair-seating system for daily mobility at home and in the community;
2. **Adult care providers, paid or unpaid, whose roles involve providing social, emotional and/or physical support to a wheelchair consumer;**
3. **Prescribing clinicians**, who as occupational therapist or physiotherapist provide a professional service in prescribing individualized, integrated wheelchair-seating systems informed by consumers' goals;
4. **Wheelchair technicians and vendors** who provide specialized wheelchair-seating systems and ongoing technical support to ensure optimal wheeled mobility for consumers with complex needs.

This invitation aims to hear from **any adult care provider** (aged 18 years and older) who has supported someone through the process of upgrading their integrated wheelchair-seating system, and who wants to share their experiences within an in-depth interview process, in English. In total sixty people with recent experience of Australian wheelchair-seating servicing will be interviewed in this study. Australian seating services vary greatly and may include specialist seating services located in large health organization or smaller services offered by clinics within specialized wheelchair suppliers or via sole seating consultants working loosely with local wheelchair vendors.

The study wants to explore the care provider's service experiences within Australia, to highlight the factors considered as beneficial to or hindered by the service received, to understand how a seating service experience has met (or not) the person's wheelchair needs. It is hoped that information gathered from your seating service experiences will assist future planning of specialised wheelchair seating services in Australia. Participant's information will be treated confidentially. Both participants and seating service will be coded to ensure anonymity.

If you are **carer supporting someone through the process of upgrading their wheelchair system** within three years (approximately), we want you to share your experiences as a research participant. For more information please email the associate researcher Rachael Schmidt.

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