

To all persons with multiple sclerosis and their main carers/support person

Participants needed

Has multiple sclerosis changed your life? Either you are the person who has MS or the person who is a principal carer (spouse, partner, caring friend or family) who is committed to facing the daily challenges of life with this condition.

I am a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. I am conducting a research study designed to better understand the impact of this condition on your life and on the lives of others affected by MS. I need many participants who are willing to help with this project. Your input and personal experience will be extremely useful for developing strategies in the care of MS. Your responses will remain confidential.

The study is planned in two stages. (1) The first part consists of a general questionnaire designed to get a profile of participants which will take about 30 – 40 minutes of your time, together with a postage paid return envelope. Contained in this packet will be a full description of the study, a consent form to be signed, and a form that you will need to fill out and return if you wish to participate in the second part of the study. (2) The second part involves an interview with the researcher (about one hour). You will be invited to tell your story and share the challenges you have encountered since multiple sclerosis entered your life. You will each be interviewed separately.

As I am sure you already know, multiple sclerosis is a disease that affects many persons in nearly all parts of the world. Many studies are being conducted to help us learn more about this mysterious disease and to understand how individuals cope with MS. Your participation in this study will help health care professionals to better understand coping strategies of those affected by MS. Your participation and assistance will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in being a part of this study or if you need further information, please ring Beatrice Zuluaga at (03) 9816 8680 or email bzuluaga@ozemail.com.au*. Dr. Elizabeth Ozanne, of the University of Melbourne School of Social Work supervises this project.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerley,
Beatrice H. Zuluaga
Principal Researcher

Dr. Elizabeth Ozanne
Coordinator, Research & Graduate Studies

* Please Note: Since publishing this letter, Beatrice Zuluaga's contact details have changed. If you would like to contact her regarding this study, please email: bzuluaga@tpg.com.au