OUTCOMES OF INJURY STUDY

Thank You for Taking Part

The Outcomes of Injury Study is a study following up injured New Zealanders for a two-year period. There are 2860 people taking part. Many people have now completed the third interview, one year after injury. Some have also completed the fourth interview, two years after injury.

We are very grateful for the time you have spent so far, completing interviews and/or written questionnaires for the Outcomes of Injury Study.

You may now be fully recovered and wondering whether you need to continue with the final interview (24 months after injury)? The answer is “Yes – we need you”.

You may recall that our research team wants to identify the things that help people recover from injury – and also the things that slow or prevent recovery from injury. Because we are interested in both aspects – recovery and non-recovery – people without any ongoing problems are just as important to us as people who have ongoing injury problems.

The final interview (two years after injury) is considerably shorter than previous interviews (about 20-25 mins) and we will again send you a $10 voucher upon completion of the interview. Even if you have moved overseas, we would still like to phone you, at your convenience. So please let us know if your contact details have changed.

This newsletter shares with you some information about people taking part in the study. We look forward to sharing the study results with you in due course.

Kind regards

Sarah Derrett (Principal investigator)

On behalf of the research team:
John Langley, Shanthi Ameratunga, Brendan Hokowhitu, Gabrielle Davie, Paul Hansen, Emma Wyeth, Rebbecca Lilley, Mary Butler & Sarah Colhoun
Some Early Information about The Study

The Outcomes of Injury Study team is beginning to analyse information collected from the first interviews (3 months after injury). Findings from this initial phase of the project are planned to be released in 2010.

People in study:

- **Number of people in the study:**
  - **2860** (of whom 565 are Māori)

- **Regions people were living in at the time of injury:**
  - Auckland City 34%
  - Manukau City 27%
  - Otago 23%
  - Southland 9%
  - Gisborne 7%

- **Gender:**
  - Male 62%
  - Female 38%

- **Age:**
  - 41 years on average (ranges from 18 to 64 years)

- **Working at the time of their injury:**
  - 91%

From The Research Team....

Dr Rebbecca Lilley

Rebecca has just returned from a trip to Canada, where she has participated in a work-disability prevention training program, run by the University of Toronto. Her interests in work-related health outcomes have developed over 11 years of occupational health and safety research at the University of Otago. In the Outcomes of Injury study, Rebbecca looks closely at the factors around people returning to work after injury. She hopes to identify how some of these factors could potentially be modified to help with the transition of people going back to work. In particular, she is interested in factors in the employment situation that help people get back to work after an injury.

As part of Rebbecca’s research, she has developed a questionnaire which she has tested with 100 people from the main Outcomes of Injury study. This questionnaire asked people about the policies and practices of their workplaces affecting their return to work after an injury.

Rebecca is also interested in looking at information about those of you who sustained injuries in the workplace. In the Outcomes of Injury study, this group makes up one third of participants. She will look at this group in more depth, as currently little is known about outcomes following work-related injury.
From The Interviewing Team....

I am Juliet and an interviewer with the Outcomes of Injury team. It’s a job I enjoy and being a former radio presenter, I get a ‘buzz’ every time I put the headphones on.

However my life as an interviewer almost ended before it began. I was conducting an interview, sitting on a stool atop a pile of four cushions. The cushions were required to bring my forearms up to desk height so I could tap the keyboard with ergonomic confidence. While safety conscious on one level, the more obvious hazard eluded me, as unexpectedly the cushions took on a life of their own, writhing onto the floor, taking me with them! Sheepishly I looked to see if anyone was witness to this inelegant descent, but if my poodle noticed, he was not letting on.

The irony of this incident did not escape me as I had visions of interviewing myself in two months’ time and having to disclose the cause of injury. Fortunately loss of pride was the only ailment and the ‘outcome’ for me was excellent, with the purchase of a second hand, high-backed office chair.

Early misadventure aside I have met some inspiring people and have come to the conclusion that the majority of injured New Zealanders are an optimistic, resilient, cheerful lot with a great sense of humour (unofficial data only!). Thanks to those who have borne with me through the occasional blunder and especially to the gentleman who upon being informed halfway through an interview that it was the wrong one, happily obliged, as we started all over again.

Future Results:

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we look forward to being in touch with you (in 2011) to share results from the information you have kindly provided. Until then, the Research team is working hard to prepare the data for publication. As you will appreciate we have a considerable amount of data to analyse. For example there are a total of 750 questions across the four interviews – and some of these are questions that you (and the other 2859 participants) have responded to in your own words; we need to pay careful attention to every question. Because the study is important, once the results are ready they need to be reviewed by international experts, after which we are free to make the information available. We hope you appreciate the rigorous process involved in a project like this. We thank you again for your participation in the study.
CONTACT US:
If you have moved, or changed your phone number or email address, please contact us so that we can update your details. Thank you.

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