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Media Release

Tuesday February 21st 2023

EPC TO HOST PHD CANDIDATE PRESENTATION ‘ONCE UPON A RESEARCH STORY’. An exclusive insight into EPC’s award-winning biography program.

On Wednesday 22nd March, from 9:30am to 11am, PhD Candidate Karly Edgar, will present her research into EPC’s award-winning biography program. EPC gave Karly unprecedented access in order to identify the elements that make the program so successful. Karly’s research shows that EPC runs Australia’s largest volunteer biography program. It may even be unrivalled internationally. This presentation is the culmination of 3 years of research.

Precisely 1511 Biographies have been produced as at the end of November 2022, an incredible feat of our Volunteer EPC Biographers. Ninety-six of EPC’s 220 volunteers have received additional in-house training to become palliative care biographers. Two products can be produced; one is an adult memoir with photos. The other is a memoir in the style of a children’s picture book for dying parents to create and leave for their children. Many clients report a reduction in anxiety, depression, pain and breathlessness and an increase in self-esteem as a result of creating the biography.

Karly studied four key participant groups; EPC clients, their carers, EPC Volunteer Biographers and EPC staff. Karly will explore how EPC’s program cleverly interweaves a spirit of collaboration, relationship and joint creativity to produce the individual life story of each narrator in their own unique way. Interview extracts and live performance readings will also be included in the presentation. Karly will hold a Q&A session at the end. The presentation will be filmed and made available afterwards at www.epc.asn.au/events

A complementary 6-part podcast series called ‘Once Upon a Story’ about Karly’s research will be released in late March. Karly teams with Krystal Wallis (EPC Volunteer Services Consultant) to discuss EPC’s Biography Program. It will delve into the role of the Biography Volunteers and all the insights and learnings from Karly’s research. The podcast series will be available at www.onceuponastorypodcast.podbean.com

This work is being supported by a La Trobe University Research Scholarship funded in part by Eastern Palliative Care Assoc Inc. (EPC)

The event invitation is attached. Please RSVP attendance by 13th March to kwallis@epc.asn.au

PHOTO/STORY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT

Krystal Wallis – EPC Volunteer Services Consultant – Available for comment

Karly Edgar, PhD Candidate - Available for comment

Media Contact:

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You're invited to...

Once Upon a Research Story

A presentation by Karly Edgar of the past three years of PhD research into EPC's Biography Program.

Drawing on the research gathered into the experience of the four key research participant groups (clients, carers, volunteer biographers, and EPC staff), the presentation will offer a selective overview of the research, including exploring how the collaborative, relational and creative service works to embody the personhood of the life storyteller (client).

Interwoven into the presentation will be interview extracts and research poetry. There will also be an opportunity for questions with Karly. A recording of the presentation will be made available at www.epc.asn.au/events

When: Wednesday 22nd March | 9.30am – 11am

Where: EPC Mitcham Training Room
Level 1, Building 2/630 Mitcham Road
(Parking available on Redland Road or Premier Avenue)

🍷 Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP by 13th March to kwallis@epc.asn.au



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