

OVA/ATs Stage 2 only point & shoot and interviews.



New Research: **Understanding how you use assisted technology in your everyday life.**

About the Research

This is an information sheet to invite you to take part in a research project Blesma are undertaking with the Veterans & Families Institute (VFI) at Anglia Ruskin University.

This Office for Veterans Affairs funded research project wants to find out from you about your everyday living experiences with **assistive technologies**. In particular, we want to understand the effectiveness of different assistive technologies used by veterans who are wheelchair/EVP-users. The research has gained research ethics approval at Anglia Ruskin University (Research ethics application number ETH2223-3462).

This project has been developed directly as a response to Blesma Members needs and feedback and is needed in order for Blesma to enhance service delivery to you and similar members, and also the work of other charities who support veterans and their families, for example Help for Heroes, and statutory health and social care providers.

To take part, we want to hear from you if you:

- use adaptive technology, such as wheelchairs/EVPs in your everyday life, either all the time or sometimes.

To take part, you will be invited to do 2 different activities. **You can choose to do either one, or both**, of them:

1. We want to understand your everyday use of your ATs. To do this, we invite you to record 'point and shoot' video diaries of your everyday use of your assisted technology. Using a 'point and shoot' means you can show and tell, in real time, how your ATs enhances your everyday living, but also what frustrations or barriers you experience whilst using ATs. You can point and shoot using any recording device you might have, such as a phone/camera. You can either do this yourself or have another person do it for you and you can point/shoot as little or as much as you wish. If you would like to take part in this, further guidance will be forwarded.

If you choose to take recordings of your everyday use of ATs, you will send them to the ARU research team, no later than September 2023, receipt of which will be confirmed by

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Tom by email. Your recordings will be saved on a password protected device. The research team will then analyse what you send but be assured that the research team will anonymise all personally identifiable content to protect your identity.

2.To understand in more details about how you use ATs in your everyday life, we invite you to take part in an interview about how you use your ATs in your everyday life. The purpose of the interviews are to understand in more detail about your use of ATs, what benefits they bring and also barriers in their everyday use. The interview will be with either Tom or Hilary for the VFI, will be online, via teams or Zoom, for approximately 60 minutes. With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded. All information you provide will be anonymised and kept as confidential and personally identifiable information (for example, names/places) will be removed from the data.

We understand this topic may be sensitive to you and your family, and there is a risk that you may feel upset during the interviews. If this is the case, the interview will be stopped, and support will be available through Blesma's network of Support Officers, who can be present in the home environment during the interviews, or available for contact as required. For further support, we can connect you to appropriate support services, for example, Combat Stress. There is also the Veterans & Reserves Mental Health Programme (0800 0326258) and out of hours callers to the Veterans UK helpline (0808 1914218).

To find out more about taking part in either part, or both parts, of this research, please contact Tom on thomas.kersey@aru.ac.uk and a call can be organised to talk about it and its requirements.

If you do not wish to take part, no response is needed, and no further contact will be made about the project. Please also note that if you have any complaints about the study, they are encouraged to access Anglia Ruskin University's complaints procedure, as follows:

Email address: complaints@anglia.ac.uk

Postal address: Office of the Secretary and Clerk, Anglia Ruskin University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SQ

We look forward to hearing from you. To find out more, and discuss this project further, please email thomas.kersey@aru.ac.uk . Tom will then contact you to talk about the project and how you can take part.

Best wishes,
Tom

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