24 March 2011

Dear participant

INFORMED CONSENT: LONELINESS AND THE ELDERLY – AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

You are hereby requested to participate in an interactive workshop exploring the older person experience of loneliness. The research project will be conducted by the North-West University’s Potchefstroom campus. Ethical permission from the ethics committee of the North-West University was obtained.

In signing this form I declare that: I have been informed that the purpose of the research is to explore elderly person experience of loneliness and mobilize their interpersonal resources to deal with their loneliness. My participation will involve that I will assist in a data gathering process continuing over two sessions. My participation will involve sharing my experiences of being lonely through the use of building models, drawing illustrations and interviews.

I understand that there are no foreseeable risks or discomforts when I agree to participate in the study. The benefit of the research is too explore the challenges that older persons have to deal with concerning loneliness and to inform carers and health care workers of how they can assist older persons in a sensitive manner. I understand that the results of the study may be published but that my name or any identifying information will not be revealed. The North-West University will maintain confidentiality of all records, material and recordings.

I have been informed that I will not be compensated for my participation. I have been informed that any questions I may have concerning this research or my participation before or after my consent, will be answered by the researchers of this study. I understand that I may withdraw my consent and discontinue participating at any time of the research process, without penalty or loss of benefit to myself. I understand that discontinuance of my participation has to be in a written format. In signing this consent form, I am not waiving any legal claims, rights and remedies.

[Signature]
Participant’s signature

[Signature]
Date