

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM



TO: Survey Participant, Members of Research Australia

Plain Language Statement

Date:

Full Project Title: Survey of the Health Medical Research Sector to explore the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on research in Australia

Principal Researcher: Professor Anna Peeters

Student Researcher:

Associate Researcher(s): Professor Trish Livingston, Mr Greg Mullins

Aim

Research Australia, in partnership with Deakin University, is conducting a survey of the Health and Medical Research (HMR) sector to gain insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on research activities.

The objective of this survey is to

- i. inform policy recommendations and proposals for improving the resilience of the HMR sector in response to the impact of COVID 19 and
- ii. identify specific issues and opportunities that have arisen through the Australian HMR sector's experience of this pandemic event

The outcomes of this report are likely to include:

- Immediate policy initiatives by the HMR sector and funders to improve the sector's resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Short-term initiatives by Research Australia and stakeholders to synthesise and share resources
- Medium and long-term policy initiatives by the HMR sector and funders to improve the HMR sector's resilience and responsiveness to future pandemics and other catastrophic events

Method

The survey questions were developed by Research Australia in partnership with Deakin University. Research Australia will invite their members to participate in this survey. Completing the survey will imply consent to participate. Identifiable data such as name, place of residence or place of work, date of birth will not be collected. Research Australia will collect the data and non-identifiable data will be transferred to Professor Anna Peeters,

Deakin University for analyses, report writing and publication of findings as aggregated data in peer-review publications.

Research Australia will use the results of this survey as part of its advocacy to Government, including using analysis of the survey results to inform policy direction and recommendations to the sector.

Research Australia may provide aggregated results and analysis back to member organisations to get an organisational perspective.

Participation in the survey

Participants are invited to complete an online survey and participation is voluntary. Submission of the survey implies consent. There will be no reimbursement or incentive attached to the completion of the survey. Deciding not to participate or withdrawing will not affect the relationship of the participants with Research Australia, the researchers or Deakin University

Declarations on conflict of interest

NIL

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number [HEAG-H 71_2020].