



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce

Researcher(s): Donna Murray, Tanja Hirvonen, Kylie Stothers and Paul Gibson

Organisation(s): Indigenous Allied Health Australia Ltd

What is the project about?

The aim of this research project is to understand how COVID-19 has impacted upon the professional practice and studies of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce, from the perspectives of the membership of Indigenous Allied Health Australia.

The project will also evaluate the supports needed for the workforce during times of health emergencies and similar circumstances.

Who is involved in the project?

This research project is being conducted by Donna Murray, Chief Executive Officer, Tanja Hirvonen Director of Policy and Research, Kylie Stothers, Director of Workforce Development and Paul Gibson, Executive Officer who work for Indigenous Allied Health Australia over the period of 1 September 2020 to 30 June 2021

The research is supported by IAHA and has not been funded by any external organisations or entities.

Why have I been invited to participate?

As a current member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia, your insights, knowledges and perspectives can contribute to a better understanding of how significant national and global events can impact on the current and future health workforce, and the supports needed to maintain good health and social and emotional wellbeing and to continue to succeed in health.

What will the researcher(s) do and when?

The researchers will conduct two, distinct electronic surveys of members to capture both the immediate and longer term impact and needs.

A survey will be sent to you on the 19 October 2020 and again on 15 March 2021, via an electronic communication to all IAHA members. The survey will take 20 minutes to complete, however you can choose to finish at any time should you wish to do so. While IAHA would value your participation in both surveys, you are in no way obligated to do so.

Please note that the submission of your survey response will be considered your implied consent to participate in this project.

You will have the option to be contacted by the researchers via phone to complete the survey, should this be your preferred method of response. The researcher will record this directly into the survey platform so no additional notes or record will exist or be attributable to any individual. No images, recordings or videos will be taken as part of this research.

What will happen to my information?

Any information that is obtained in connection with this research project and that can be identified with you will remain confidential unless otherwise permitted by you, or as required by law. The procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of your information during the collection phase and the later publication of results are, primarily, not recording any personal identifiers with which you could be identified. IAHA are conscious that, particularly our

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members, may be members of small professional cohorts and care is required to ensure that individuals can not be identified based on information such as their location and professional discipline.

Copyright will be retained by IAHA (if applicable), however the knowledges, insights and perspectives contributed by IAHA members will be duly acknowledged and valued. The researcher(s) will provide you with a copy of all planned research outputs, including any IAHA branded reports and journal articles, as well as reporting to members through the IAHA 2021 Member Forum.

Will I be paid for my time?

You will not be paid for your time in completing the survey, however it is intended that the survey will help IAHA to better support our members.

IAHA will be conducting a lucky draw of 2 x \$500 professional development scholarships (one for each survey). To enter, you can send a screenshot or photo of the submission confirmation page to policy@iaha.com.au with your name and contact number.

The recipients of the professional development scholarships will be notified via email or phone within three months of the survey commencement date. IAHA will notify all members, via the IAHA newsletter, once the prize has been accepted, however the recipient will remain anonymous.

All participants will be collectively acknowledged for their contributions in any publications produced as a result of this project.

What are the potential risks?

IAHA acknowledge that reflection on challenging circumstances and events, and how these have impacted us, can generate feelings of sadness, stress, anxiety and other emotions which can threaten our sense of good health and social and emotional wellbeing.

IAHA have a comprehensive mental health and wellbeing strategy which is designed to support all members. We encourage you to contact IAHA (see below for details) or to access other informal and formal supports should your participation raise any concerns or issues for you.

Data storage

During the project, the data will be collected via Survey Monkey and stored securely in line with appropriate industry protocols and standards. Only IAHA staff members directly engaged in this research project will have access to the data, with password and account verification protections in place.

The information will be kept by IAHA for one year beyond the completion date of this research project.

Culturally restricted information

Please note that while this research be informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, the research will not include within its scope (or actively seek or assert claim to) culturally restricted information.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

This survey is open to all active, individual members of Indigenous Allied Health Australia only.

Contact

If you have any concerns about the research you can contact Tanja Hirvonen, Director of Policy and Research, on (02) 6285 1010 or via email at tanja@iaha.com.au

Should require other support, including crisis support, services you can contact include:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue Support Service 1300 224 636
- Bush Support Services (for rural and remote students and professionals) 1800 805 391

If you wish to complain formally you can do this by contacting;

- The Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, Units 3 and 4, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600, (e) donna@iaha.com.au
- The Executive Director of Research, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) ethics@aiatsis.gov.au
- The Chair of the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) ethics@aiatsis.gov.au
- If I think there has been a breach of my privacy I can write to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001 or call 1300 363 992.

Ethics Committee Clearance

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee.

