

# ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES TOWARDS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN AUSTRALIA: ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FORM

## **Background**

The current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has seen governments implement a range of public health strategies to reduce community transmission of the virus. The most significant of these strategies is the social distancing rules that have been established and enforced to varying degrees in different Australian states, in addition to public health promotion campaigns regarding hygiene practices.

This current research study seeks to explore your attitude and practices towards the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing rules and hygiene practices. We are hoping to use the results of this study to explore how this pandemic has been communicated, and received and actioned by the Australian public.

## **Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- **A/Prof Geoff Argus**, Director, Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Ms Nicola Cotter**, Interprofessional Practice Coordinator, Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Dr Flora Rolf**, Clinical Educator (Nursing), Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Dr Lin Wegener**, Clinical Educator (Occupational Therapy), Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Ms Toni Murray**, Interprofessional Practice Coordinator (South West), Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Dr Genevieve Baratiny**, Senior Research Fellow, Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Ms Clara Walker**, Project Officer, Southern Queensland Rural Health, University of Queensland.
- **Dr Anna Tynan**, Research Fellow, Darling Downs Health.

## **Inclusion / exclusion criteria**

This research study is inviting participants who meet the following criteria:

- People aged 18 years and above.
- People who reside in Australia.

### ***What does participation in this research study require?***

If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked to complete the online survey which will ask you questions about your attitudes and practices towards the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing rules and hygiene guidelines. Additionally, we will ask some basic demographic information about you. The survey will not collect any personal information that will identify you. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

At the conclusion of the survey, you will be provided with an opportunity to be contacted for a follow-up interview with the researchers either via phone or online video call. If you consent to this, you will be asked to provide a contact number for the researchers to call you. Please be aware that the follow-up interviews will be recorded. The interview will not collect any personal information and will involve questions based on the results of the survey. Participation in the follow up interview is voluntary. If you agree to participate in a follow-up interview, you will go into a draw to win a free Apple Ipad.

### ***Do I have to take part in this research study?***

Participation in this research study is entirely voluntary. Your decision will not affect your relationship with Southern Queensland Rural Health (SQRH) or the University of Queensland.

### ***Can I withdraw from the research study?***

You can withdraw from the research study at any time prior to submitting the survey. You can do this by closing the survey on your web browser. If you elect to participate in a follow-up interview, you can withdraw at any time, including during and after the interview itself. If you withdraw from the research study, we will not keep or include any information that has already been collected.

However, once you have submitted the survey, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the survey is anonymous.

### ***Are there any risks involved?***

There are low risks associated with participating in this research study. This is limited to the inconvenience and time required to partake in the survey and follow-up interview.

### ***What are the possible benefits to participating in the research study?***

The information collected from this research study may help guide future approaches to communicating disease precautions and prevention measures in different Australian geographical locations (metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas). It is not expected that you will receive any personal benefits from participating in the research study.

### ***What will happen to information about me?***

Submission of the online survey is an indication of your consent. By clicking the 'submit' button at the end of the survey, you are providing your permission for the research team to use your anonymous survey

responses for the research study. No personal information will be collected in the survey, except if you provide consent to participate in a follow-up interview.

If you consent to the follow up interview, any collected data will be reported in a way that will not identify you.

All data collected during this research study will be stored for 7 years in a password protected file on a computer at SQRH. The researchers may use the collected survey data for other projects within SQRH; however, your information will be shared in a format that will not identify you. Collected data may also be used for future studies but only if approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee.

### ***Who has approved this research study?***

This research study follows the guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

### ***Results of the research study***

The research team intend to publish and report the results of the research. All research will be published in a way that will not identify you. You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results and, if you would like a summary of the findings, please email [sgrh@uq.edu.au](mailto:sgrh@uq.edu.au).

### **Who can I speak to about this research study?**

You can discuss your participation in this evaluation with a member of the research team by emailing [sgrh@uq.edu.au](mailto:sgrh@uq.edu.au) or calling (07) 4633 9798.

If you would like to speak to someone from the University of Queensland who is not directly involved in the research project, you may contact the Ethics Co-ordinator on 07 3365 3924 or 07 3443 1656 or email: [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au).