

# Research Project Information Sheet



## Influences on Paramedic decision making regarding the scene discharge or transportation of patients

Ethics Approval Number: **S/19/1288**

### Research Team Contact Details

The research team consists of Chief Investigator Dr Alison Craswell (University of the Sunshine Coast), A/Prof Bill Lord (University of the Sunshine Coast) and Mrs Alannah Morrison (University of the Sunshine Coast),

Please direct questions to:

#### Chief Investigator

A/Prof Bill Lord  
Email: [wlord@usc.edu.au](mailto:wlord@usc.edu.au)  
Telephone: (07) 5459 4875

#### Investigator

Mrs Alannah Morrison  
Email: [abrown3@usc.edu.au](mailto:abrown3@usc.edu.au)  
Telephone: (07) 5459 4801

### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to identify and explore how paramedics make clinical decisions when deciding to transport to definitive care or discharge the patient at scene. Further this research aims to develop a theory to explain the social process of paramedic clinical decision making, when deciding to transport the patient to a medical facility or discharge the patient at scene.

If you are a Registered Paramedic employed in a clinical role providing emergency care and transport of people in the community experiencing illness or injury you are invited to participate in this project.

### Participation

Your participation will involve participating in either a face to face or an online focus group of approximately one hour of your time at a time and date to be organized. Participants will then be invited to participate in a one-on-one interview of approximately 1 hour in duration at a time and location of your convenience. Alternatively, participants may wish to solely participate in a one on one interview.

The interview / focus group will ask questions such as: Can you describe an instance when you attended to a patient which as the treating paramedic you decided not to transport the patient to a health care facility?

The interview / focus group will take place either via phone, online platforms or at the University of the Sunshine Coast at a time mutually convenient and will be audio recorded.

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part you are not required to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any point. If you do wish to withdraw from this project, please contact the Research Team (contact details are at the top of this form).

Your decision to participate (or not), will in no way impact your current or future relationship with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Paramedics Australasia is forwarding the information on our behalf and that they, will not know who participates.

This project has received funding from the Kenneth James McPherson Foundation.

### **Consent**

You will be asked to provide verbal consent before participating in the research.

The research team will be able to identify if you choose to participate.

Consent is for the use of re-identifiable data in this research project. Face to face focus groups and one on one interviews will be transcribed by a third party. Once all data is in text format participants names will be removed and replaced with a code.

### **Risks and Benefits**

There is a minimal risk to you which may include distressing in recollecting prior events. Should you have an unresolved psychological condition, participation may cause psychological distress. If you need to talk to someone about this immediately please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14. You may also wish to consider consulting your General Practitioner (GP) for additional support. **Privacy, Confidentiality and**

### **Results**

Any data collected as a part of this project will be stored securely as per USC's Research Data Management policy. All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law.

All audio recordings will be transcribed by a third party, you will be provided the opportunity to verify your comments in the transcription. Transcriptions will be stored securely for a period of 5 years for the use of research verification and potential future research projects.

If you would like a summary of findings of this research project, please contact the Chief Investigator (listed above). Non-identifiable results may be presented at external or internal conferences or meetings, or by publication.

### **Concerns or Complaints**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the way this research project is being conducted you can raise them with the Chief Investigator (listed above). If you prefer an independent person, contact the Chairperson of the USC Human Research Ethics Committee: (c/- Office of Research, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC 4558; telephone (07) 5430 2823; email [humanethics@usc.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@usc.edu.au)).

**Thank you for consideration of this study. Please keep this sheet for your information.**