

**Project Title****Paramedic Perceptions about their Continuing Professional Development During a Global Pandemic****Research team contact details****Principal Investigator Details**

Ms Lisa Hobbs  
Email: [Lisa.Hobbs@usq.edu.au](mailto:Lisa.Hobbs@usq.edu.au)  
Telephone: +61 7 3812 6236  
Mobile: +61 408 664 867

**Associate Investigators**

Dr Scott Devenish  
Email: [scott.devenish@qut.edu.au](mailto:scott.devenish@qut.edu.au)  
Telephone: +61 7 3138 3581  
Mobile: +61 433 903 670

Mr Jeremy Taylor  
Email: [j.d.taylor@cqu.edu.au](mailto:j.d.taylor@cqu.edu.au)  
Telephone: +61 7 3023 4117  
Mobile: +61 027 909 886

**Description**

This project is being undertaken as part of an area of interest of the researchers through the University of Southern Queensland.

The purpose of this project is to examine the attitudes and experiences of Australasian paramedics engaging in continuing professional development activities during the global pandemic (Covid-19). The literature pertaining to allied health proposes many influences on continuing professional development, which includes both attitudes and engagement. The impact of Covid-19 extends into the realm of continuing professional development by virtue of lockdowns and social distancing. Conferences, seminars, workshops and other face-to-face continuing professional development activities have been modified to online/virtual offering as a means to facilitate mandatory training, maintenance of professional/regulatory continuing professional development obligations and life-long learning desires. By investigating and comparing paramedic attitudes and experiences with continuing professional development before and after the global pandemic, we can construct a deeper understanding of paramedic engagement with continuing professional development.

**Participation**

Your participation will involve completion of a online questionnaire (Likert scale with some free-text options) that will take approximately 10-20 minutes of your time (depending on the length of any free-text responses that you would like to make).

Questions will include:

- Have the types of CPD activities that you would usually choose to do changed since 2020? (i.e. no longer attend face-to-face activities due to lockdowns/social distancing/etc) Answer choice: Yes/No/Unsure
- Is it easier for you to maintain your CPD now that the majority of events are held in a virtual space? Answer choice: Yes/No/Unsure
- Some type of free-text answer question about ways that they find time to engage in CPD.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you are not obliged to. You will be unable to withdraw data collected about yourself after the data has been analysed.

If you do wish to withdraw from this project, please contact the Research Team (contact details at the top of this form).

Your decision whether you take part, do not take part, or take part and then withdraw, will in no way impact your current or future relationship with the University of Southern Queensland.

### Expected benefits

It is expected that this project will not directly benefit you. However; it may benefit the paramedic profession.

### Risks

Participants are asked to complete a survey which is expected to take approximately 20 minutes to complete. As paramedics are required to complete 30 hours of CPD as part of their professional registration, this study poses no greater risks than day-to-day living activities associated with being a paramedic. However, the researchers acknowledge that some participants may be answering this survey whilst in lockdown/quarantine and could experience some level of psychological discomfort.

As the content relates to CPD in paramedicine and it is not expected that the content will elicit adverse emotions from participants. In the event that a participant becomes distressed during or after data collection, we recommend to take appropriate measures to obtain support. You can contact Lifeline on 13 11 14, Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636, your personal GP, Psychologist, or Counsellor.

### Privacy and confidentiality

All comments and responses are confidential unless required by law. The names of individual persons are not required in any of the responses.

Please note that non-identifiable data from this project may be used as comparative data in future projects or stored on secure database for secondary analysis.

Research outcomes from this project will be published in peer-reviewed literature (including only non-identifiable participant information).

Any data collected as a part of this project will be stored securely, as per University of Southern Queensland's [Research Data and Primary Materials Management Procedure](#).

### Consent to participate

Clicking on the 'Submit' button at the conclusion of the questionnaire is accepted as an indication of your consent to participate in this project.

### Questions

Please refer to the Research team contact details at the top of the form to have any questions answered or to request further information about this project.

If a participant wishes to contact the researchers for a summary of results, it will be provided to them. This will not have any effect on the anonymity of participants providing answers to the survey.

### Concerns or complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the project, you may contact the University of Southern Queensland, Manager of Research Integrity and Ethics on +61 7 4631 1839 or email [researchintegrity@usq.edu.au](mailto:researchintegrity@usq.edu.au). The Manager of Research Integrity and Ethics is not connected with the research project and can address your concern in an unbiased manner.

**Thank you for taking the time to help with this research project. Please keep this document for your information.**