



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Project ID:** 43636

**Project title** Paramedics' perceptions of the primary routes of occupational exposure to ketamine: A cross-sectional qualitative survey

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You are invited to take part in this **student research** study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

### What does the research involve?

This study aims to explore paramedics' perceptions of the primary routes of occupational exposure to ketamine during their operational duties. We are interested in understanding your views on potential exposure risks, high-risk tasks, and factors that may influence these perceptions.

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete an online survey that will take approximately 15-20 minutes of your time. The survey includes questions about your understanding of occupational exposure to ketamine, your experiences, and your opinions on risk factors and prevention strategies.

To be eligible for this study, you must be a paramedic currently employed and performing operational duties within Australia who is authorised to administer or handle ketamine.

### Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

By clicking the survey link at the end of this document, you indicate your consent to participate in this research project. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time before submitting your responses. However, as the survey is anonymous, it will not be possible to withdraw your data once you have submitted your responses.

### Possible benefits and risks to participants

While there may not be any direct benefits to you from participating in this study, your contributions will help raise awareness about occupational exposure risks faced by paramedics and inform the development of evidence-based strategies for minimising these risks. This research is crucial for promoting the development of comprehensive guidelines and support systems to protect paramedics' right to work in a safe environment.

This study involves minimal risk to participants. However, we acknowledge that some questions related to occupational exposure experiences may be sensitive. If you experience any distress during or after completing the survey, we encourage you to contact support services such as:

- Lifeline (13 11 14) or
- Beyond Blue (1300 22 4636).

The research team will conduct daily checks of submitted surveys, looking for any concerning responses or indications of distress. If you have any concerns or adverse experiences related to the study, we encourage you to email your concerns to: Dasha7@student.monash.edu, and we will promptly reply to your concerns.

### **Confidentiality**

Your responses will be completely anonymous. No identifying information will be collected, and your responses will be coded and analysed in aggregate form. The results will be reported in a way that no individual participant can be identified.

### **Storage of data**

The data will be stored for at least 5 years on secure Monash University servers accessible only to members of the research team. After this period, the data will be destroyed in accordance with Monash University's data retention and disposal policies.

### **Results**

A summary of the results will be available after November 2024. If you would like to receive a copy of the results, please contact the research team using the contact details provided at the top of this document.

### **Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Office of Research Ethics and Integrity  
Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)  
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052      Email: [muhrec@monash.edu](mailto:muhrec@monash.edu)

Thank you for considering participating in this important research project. Your insights and experiences are valuable in helping us understand and address the occupational risks faced by paramedics.

**REMINDER: *Clicking the survey link indicates that you consent to participate in this research project***

**[LINK TO SURVEY - CLICK HERE](#)**