



## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Project Title:**

How paramedics manage their cognitive burden: A grounded theory qualitative interview study

### **Project Summary:**

You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted by Jacob Tant, Dr Robin Pap and Associate Professor Dr Paul Simpson of the School of Health Sciences, Western Sydney University. The research aims to determine how Australian paramedics manage cognitive burden whilst working within the prehospital environment.

### **How is the study being paid for?**

The study has no dedicated funding other than Research Training Program (RTP) stipends made available via the School of Health Sciences.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to participate in a confidential, recorded, online, semi-structured interview of up to 60 minutes, during which you will be asked to explain how you manage cognitive burden during your practice as an Australian paramedic. You may be asked to reflect on cases that have involved cognitive burden, or to respond to hypothetical incidents described to you. Your identity will only be known to the named research team, so your privacy and confidentiality will be protected.

### **How much of my time will I need to give?**

The online interview will be up to 60 minutes in duration.

### **What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?**

There is no direct benefit to you through participating, other than it being an opportunity to reflect on your clinical practice. You may be able to construct a reflection around this and log your engagement as continuing professional development (CPD)

There is no direct benefit to the broader community, though in the fullness of time the evidence resulting from this study may have a positive impact on paramedic practice, of which the community is a recipient.

### **Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?**

It is highly unlikely that participation will create any risk or discomfort for you, however, when discussing clinical work, there is always some chance of those involved experiencing physical, psychological, or emotional distress. It is expected that such discomfort, if experienced, would be low. Please note that your interview may be paused or stopped at any time at your request.



**How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?**

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided so that the participant cannot be identified. The names of all participants will be replaced with numerical codes that only the research team will have access to. All other details that could potentially be used to identify participants, such as the names of specific locations, will be altered to ensure participant privacy.

**Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?**

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period. For instance, your data may be used within the next five years to support ongoing research surrounding paramedic cognitive burden. *The same level of privacy protection exists for future projects should they occur,*

**Can I withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time up to the point of data analysis commencing. At that point your data will have been merged via qualitative analysis with that of other participants, so extraction of it is not possible. Should you withdraw before that point, the data relating to you will be destroyed.

**Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by sharing the EOI advertisement with them. The inclusion of other people in this study will be determined by the researchers according to nominated inclusion and selection criteria.

**What if I require further information?**

Please contact primary student researcher Mr Jacob Tant should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether to participate. Contact should be made via email at [j.tant@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:j.tant@westernsydney.edu.au)

**Privacy Notice**

Western Sydney University staff and students conduct research that may require the collection of personal and/or health information from research participants.

The University's Privacy Policy and Privacy Management Plan set out how the University collects, holds, uses and discloses personal or health information. Further details about the use and disclosure of this information can be found on the [Privacy at Western Sydney webpage](#).

**What if I have a complaint?**

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Participant Information Sheet – **Interviewees – V2.0 - 10/April/2024**

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may email the Ethics Committee through Research Services: [humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au).

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep, and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H[*enter approval number once the project has been approved*].

## Explanation of Consent

**What will happen to my information if I agree to it being used in other projects?** Thank you for considering being a participant in a university research project. The researchers are asking that you agree to supply your information (data) for use in this project and to also agree to allow the data to potentially be used in future research projects.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

You have been asked to agree to Extended consent.

**What does this mean?** When you agree to extended consent, it means that you agree that your data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in projects that are

- an extension of this project
- closely related to this project
- in the same general area of this research.

The researchers may use this data for the next five years to conduct further research in the area of paramedic cognitive burden.

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at the University in its data repository and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use will not have information in it that makes you identifiable. The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

The researchers want to keep the data for five years for possible re-use. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree. You can also find more information about the re-use of data in research in the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) – see Sections 2.2.14 - 2.2.18.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>