

# Plain Language Statement



Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology

**Project:** *Who is talking, who is listening, and who is hearing? Optimising hearing help-seeking pathways starting in the General Practitioner's office.*

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## Introduction

You are invited to participate in the above project, which is led by Dr Barr of the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at The University of Melbourne. You are invited to participate in this study as you are a General Practitioner (GP), an adult with hearing loss, or a professional working with GPs or associated with the training of GPs.

## Purpose of the research

This project is being conducted by The University of Melbourne. The aim of this project is to better understand GPs' beliefs and behaviours regarding management of age-related hearing loss and identify related barriers and methods to overcome these barriers. It is hoped that the findings from this project will inform the development of a tool to improve help-seeking and uptake of hearing services, which will benefit individuals with a hearing loss, their families, GPs and society.

## What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to contribute complete up to three online survey activities.

## How long is my participation expected to take?

We estimate that the time required to complete one to three online survey activities will be between 60 minutes to 2.5 hours. The first survey activity is expected to take 10 to 15 minutes; the second survey activity is expected to take 15 to 45 minutes; the third survey activity is expected to take 10 to 15 minutes. Time spent on each survey activity is up to the participant, and participants may choose to take part in one, two or all three survey activities.

## How will my confidentiality be protected?

We intend to protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent, subject to any legal requirements. Your name and contact details will be kept in a password-protected computer file, separate from any data that you supply. The data will be kept securely in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology for at least 5 years from the date of publication, and may be destroyed after this time.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Although we value your participation, you are free to decide whether or not to participate. Even if you have given consent to participate, you may stop participation at any time. Please be assured that there will be no negative consequences of choosing not to participate or withdrawing.

### **What happens after the project is finished?**

Results and data from this project will be kept for at least 5 years from the conclusion of the research. Results of this project may be published in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at conferences. No identifying information will be included in publication of results. A brief summary of the research findings will be made available to you if you indicate on the consent form that you would like to receive this. This summary will be mailed or emailed to you at the conclusion of the project.

### **How is this project funded?**

This research is financially supported by the Peter Howson Clinical Research Fellowship, which is funded by the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and the Deafness Foundation to support important, innovative clinical and scientific research with the potential to directly benefit people with hearing loss.

### **What are the risks associated with participating in this project?**

There is a minimal possibility of psychological/mental stress/distress for participants with hearing loss as the result of reporting negative experiences regarding hearing loss during participation in the research. Should this occur, contact details of a health professional local to you will be provided.

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers; Dr Caitlin Barr, P: 03 9035 5521; E: [barrcm@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:barrcm@unimelb.edu.au), or Dr Bec Bennett E: [rebecca.bennett@unimelb.org.au](mailto:rebecca.bennett@unimelb.org.au)

### **What if I have any concerns about the project?**

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, please contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team or the ethics ID number (1646070.3) of the research project.

### **How do I agree to participate?**

If you would like to participate in this project, please indicate that you have read and understood this information by completing the accompanying consent form and returning it.