

**Research Centre for Generational  
Health and Ageing**

International Medical Graduates Survey  
**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Introduction**

You are invited to take part in a research study evaluating the Australian Medical Council's (AMC) Workplace Based Assessment (WBA) program. The objective is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the WBA and its impact on the long-term outcomes of international medical graduates who have attempted the program.

**Background**

The WBA program has been running since 2010, so the AMC has commissioned the Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing (RCGHA) at the University of Newcastle to co-ordinate an independent, formal evaluation of the program. Professor Deborah Loxton, Co-Director of the RCGHA is the researcher leading the RCGHA project team.

**What is the research about?**

The aim of the evaluation is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the WBA and its impact on the long-term outcomes of international medical graduates who have attempted the program.

The information will be collated by the RCGHA and fed back to the AMC in de-identified form to protect participants' confidentiality.

**Where is the research being done?**

The study is being sponsored by the AMC and conducted by the RCGHA at the University of Newcastle, NSW. Participants will be asked to complete an online survey evaluating their experience of the WBA program.

**Who can participate in the research?**

All international medical graduates who have attempted the WBA will be invited to participate in the study, providing feedback on their experience of, and opinions about, the WBA program.

As this is an evaluation of the WBA, international medical graduates who pursued alternative methods of accreditation will not be suitable to participate in this survey.

## **What choice do you have?**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part in it. If you do take part, you can withdraw at any time without having to give a reason. Whatever your decision, please be assured that it will not affect your relationship with the RCGHA team or the AMC.

The AMC will send an email reminder inviting you to participate in the study in case you miss the initial invitation. If you decide to participate but have to exit part way through the survey, the RCGHA will send you a personalised link via email and potentially SMS which will take you straight to where you left off in the survey.

## **What will you be asked to do if you agree to participate?**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a 30 – 60 minute (approx.) online questionnaire. You will be asked to provide basic personal details for the purpose of providing you with a summary of the results of this study. We may contact you in the future if the opportunity arises to develop this study further.

The survey consists of questions on a range of topics including:

- Your demographics and background
- Assessment of the WBA program:
  - Benefit or usefulness to the individual
  - Cost appropriateness
  - Time consumption
  - Support
  - Effectiveness of the program
  - Impact on career trajectory and professional development
- Comparison of assessment methods
- Career since undertaking the WBA
- Current occupation satisfaction
- Career aspirations and goals
- Future support and current challenges
- Current outlook on life
- Emotional wellbeing
- Stress
- Life satisfaction
- Work/life balance

You have been chosen to participate in the Pilot group for this study. You will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the survey itself at the end by flagging questions throughout the survey that you wish to comment on, along with the chance to provide general feedback at the end.

### **What are the risks and benefits of participating?**

It is expected the survey may take between 30-60 minutes to complete. We intend that this research study helps to improve the WBA program for future students. We encourage you to consider your participation in this survey as a contribution to your Continuing Professional Development activities for 2018. Ensure to record the amount of time taken to participate for your own records.

### **Will the study cost you anything?**

Participation in this study will not cost you anything, nor will you be paid.

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

All the information collected from you for the study will be treated confidentially, and only the RCGHA project team will have access to it.

Your personal details (including first name, last name, date of birth, phone number and email address) will be accessed, used and stored in accordance with Commonwealth Privacy Laws and the NSW Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002. Your personal details will not be linked to your survey responses, they will be stored separately on secure servers at the University of Newcastle. Your responses will be de-identified to ensure your confidentiality. RCGHA staff involved in the project will sign confidentiality agreements to ensure security of your information.

The study results will be provided to the AMC and may be presented at a conference or in a scientific publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable.

Should you decide to withdraw your participation, you will receive no further surveys from us. If you have already provided information, it will be retained for the purpose of the project unless you request that it be destroyed. However, please note that your data cannot be removed from published or finalised analysis.

If a follow-up study is developed, the RCGHA will send an email invitation to you. Any future studies will also be optional.

### **Further Information**

If you would like to know more at any stage, or you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact the RCGHA project team: [rcgha@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:rcgha@newcastle.edu.au) or contact Clare Thomson (02) 4042 0686.

This information statement is for you to keep. It is accessible at this site and we recommend you download it and keep a copy for your reference.

Thank you for considering this invitation.



Professor Deborah Loxton

Co-Director Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing

## **Complaints about this research**

This research has been approved by the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee of Hunter New England Local Health District, Reference 17/12/13/4.12 and the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee, Reference H-2018-0086.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to Dr Nicole Gerrand, Manager, Research Ethics and Governance Unit, Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee, Hunter New England Local Health District, Locked Bag 1, New Lambton NSW 2305, telephone (02) 49214950, email [Hnehrec@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Hnehrec@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)