



Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Australia's Psychology Workforce Capacity Survey

Researchers: 'Australia's Psychology Workforce Capacity Survey' is being conducted by researchers at ANU, led by Professor Iain Walker in the Research School of Psychology.

Funding: The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven Research (EPCDR) Initiative & The ANU Institute of Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions (ICEDS) Seed Funding.

General outline of the project

- **Who can participate?** The survey is open to any person who:
 - a) Is currently AHPRA registered as a Psychologist (any scope), or was AHPRA registered as a Psychologist for a period of time between August 2019 and now;
 - b) has worked in a scope of Psychology in Australia since August 2019; and
 - c) can read and write English well enough to complete the survey.
- **Research description:** This project will evaluate how psychologists have managed the increased and changing demands for their services due to the 2019-2020 Bushfires and COVID-19. We will also evaluate the preparedness of the psychology workforce to respond to future disasters, which are likely to become more frequent and severe. We aim to develop recommendations for policy and practice to better enable the psychology workforce to cope with ongoing demands related to bushfires and the pandemic, as well as prepare for future disasters.
- **Use of data and feedback:** It is intended that the outcomes of this research appear in scientific publications and be communicated by methods such as conference presentations, student research theses, media updates, or similar. A report of the research findings will be made available to the public and posted at on our project website listed below.

Participant involvement

- **Voluntary participation and withdrawal:** Your participation is voluntary and you may stop at any time. When completing the [online survey](#), your responses will automatically be saved each time you move to the next page. You can stop by closing your internet browser. If you'd like to delete answers you have submitted up to that point, click the "Exit Survey" button and select "delete my data". Once you have submitted the online survey, or returned the postal survey, you will not be able to withdraw your responses as your information is anonymous. You may select the "prefer not to say" option for questions you do not feel comfortable answering.
- **What's involved in the research?** In this survey, you will be asked questions about the way that the bushfires and COVID-19 impacted your work, how you responded to these disasters, strengths and barriers experienced, and your perception of current and future challenges for Psychologists working in your area. You will be asked some questions about topics that may be sensitive, including demographics (e.g., age, employment details), experiences of stress, and self-care strategies. At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to provide general feedback. You will also be invited to optionally register to take part in future research, such as a follow-up survey, or possible future interviews.
- **Location and duration:** The survey takes 15-30 minutes, depending on how many experiences are relevant to you, and how much you wish to share in open-ended text. The survey can be completed online by visiting the research website listed below, or you can visit this website to register for a postal

version of the survey that you can complete and return. If you need a break while completing the online survey, your responses will be saved and you can return to it by using the original survey link. Once you have started the survey, please complete it within 7 days.

- **Risks:** People have unique emotions and experiences with bushfire, bushfire-smoke, and COVID-19. Some people may feel higher levels of distress when recalling their experience. It is important to remember that you may skip questions by selecting the '*prefer not to say*' option or stop the survey at any time. If you begin to feel distressed at any point, we encourage you to discontinue the survey and contact your local GP or a mental health support service to discuss your experience. Nationally available support services include: [Lifeline \(lifeline.org.au or 13 11 14\)](http://lifeline.org.au), [Lifeline's dedicated Bushfire Recovery Crisis Support line \(13 HELP or 13 43 57\)](http://lifeline.org.au/bushfire-recovery), [Beyond Blue \(beyondblue.org.au or 1300 22 4636\)](http://beyondblue.org.au), and the [Suicide Call Back Service \(1300 659 467\)](http://1300659467.com.au). Links to further supports can be found here on our project website listed below.
- **Benefits:** This research will help our understanding of the impacts of bushfire and COVID-19 on the Australian psychology workforce. The research will help us understand the ongoing needs of the Psychology workforce following bushfire disaster and the subsequent pandemic. It will also help us understand how the Psychology Workforce can prepare to support mental wellbeing following future bushfires and other disasters. We hope that the research outcomes can be used by health professionals, communities and policy makers to shape local and national strategies for bushfire resilience and recovery.
- **Prize draw:** As a thank you for participating, people who take part in the survey can enter a prize draw to win one of six \$50 e-gift cards. To enter the draw, people will provide their contact name and an email address as well as consent to have their names published on the study website if they win. The prize will be drawn by a study team member using random number generation when the survey is closed. Participants will be notified via email if they have won. Name and email details for the prize draw will not be linked in any way to survey data. Entering the prize draw is optional. The conditions of the prize draw comply with the legislation governing the operation of exempt lotteries in the ACT. See: https://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/790251/Exempt-LotteriesInformation-and-Conditions.pdf

Confidentiality

Your responses: Your confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows. This includes in accordance with The ANU Privacy Policy (ANUP_010007) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). Your responses will be uniquely coded (identifying details removed) and only made available to the research team. New team members will be approved by an ethics board and limited to conducting research activities that are consistent with the original aims of this survey. The collected data will be reported in group format only and therefore individual data will not be able to be identified.

Contact details: If you choose to participate in follow-up studies, only then will you be asked to provide your contact details (first name and phone number). These details will be coded and stored separately to your survey responses. Your details will only be used to schedule follow-up research, as agreed at the time, and will not be used for any other purpose. Once you have completed your participation or have withdrawn from the research, your details will be destroyed.

Data Storage

Online survey: Data will be collected online using the Qualtrics platform, then extracted and stored on a secure server at the ANU. The data will only be accessible to the approved research team. Data storage is required for at least 5 years following all publications arising from the work. After this, deidentified data will be archived indefinitely on the Australia Data Archive (www.ada.edu.au) (accessible to the broader research community for re-use).

Postal survey: Data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in: Room 134, Building 39, Research School of Psychology. Only researchers working on the project will have access to the room.

Privacy notice

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can: Access or seek correction to their personal information, complain about breach of an Australian Privacy Principle, or how ANU handles complaints.

Questions or concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the research team on the contact details below. This research has been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Ethics Protocol number 2020/591). If you have concerns or complaints about this research or its conduct, please email The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (human.ethics.officer@anu.edu), or call +61 2 6125 3427.

Contact Details

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Website: psychology.anu.edu.au/research/projects/bushfire-study

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Please call and leave a message with your best contact number and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.