

APPENDIX A: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 46947

Project title: Injured workers' experience of using general practitioners (GP) services for managing compensable and non-compensable conditions

Chief Investigator:

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You are invited to take part in this study because you have an accepted workers' compensation claim in Australia

Taking part in the study is voluntary, and participation or non-participation in this project will not affect your compensation claim in any way

All information you provide will be confidential and will only be available to the researchers. All reporting from the study by Monash University is de-identified such that no individual can be identified.

How do I take part in the study?

If you have received information about the study and are interested in participating or would like to know more, please contact the Monash University research team by emailing Preeti Maharjan (preeti.maharjan@monash.edu) with your name, email +/- phone number and nominating your preferred communication method. You can also telephone the research team at +61 (03) 9903 9411.

What does the study involve?

Having a conversation with a researcher that takes 45 to 60 minutes. The conversation will take place over Zoom (from a dial-in phone or via videoconference) and will be recorded with your permission.

The conversation includes questions 1) What is your experience of using GP services? and 2) What changes in current arrangements could improve recovery outcomes for injured workers?

Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to participate because you have accepted workers' compensation claims in Australia within the past 5 years.

What are the benefits?

This study will provide insights into ways of improving the GP care provision, from the perspectives of people who have direct experience. The information will be used to identify the ways that workers' compensation can better support injured workers in their recovery journey.

What are the risks?

Some of the questions will ask about your experience with a workers' compensation claim. You may feel upset when you think about your experiences.

If you do experience any distress, you can stop the interview at any time.

You could also speak to a friend or family member or call Lifeline on 13 11 14, Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467, MensLine Australia on 1300 78 99 78, Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.

You may also have access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through your employer. You can contact your employer's human resources team to find contact details for the EAP provider.

Do you get paid?

No, there is no payment for participating in this study. It is voluntary participation.

Who is funding the project?

This project is a part of the PhD project being undertaken by Preeti Maharjan, funded by a Monash Graduate Research Scholarship and Monash International Tuition Scholarship.

What will happen to my information?

Interviews will be recorded via Zoom to a local device (not the cloud) and transcribed verbatim, with identifying names removed. The information will be included in the PhD thesis, publications, and presentations to share the findings. Both will be available on public websites such as the Monash University Research Repository and the Workers' Voice website.

You will NOT be personally identified in any research output. Monash University will not tell anyone if you have participated in the research or not. Your information will not be provided to any other parties.

All data you provide will be stored in a secure, password-protected environment at Monash University, accessible only to the Monash University research team. If you wish to access your information, you can get in touch with the study lead, Professor Alex Collie, using the information provided above. Study participants will be provided a high-level summary of the results upon request after the completion of the study.

Consent to participate and Withdrawal from the study

You will be asked to provide verbal consent to participate in the study, which will be audio-recorded during the interview. If you wish to withdraw from the study, you can do so by contacting Professor Alex Collie within seven (7) days from the completion of the interview. If you choose to withdraw from the study, we will delete all your data in a manner that protects your confidentiality.

Concerns or Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the study, you can contact the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee via telephone: (03) 9905 2052 or email: muhrec@monash.edu, or fax: (03) 9905 3831. **Project ID: 46947.**