



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Student Perspectives of Bonded Medical Places and Non-GP Medical Specialty Training Programs

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

Background to the project.

The survey was first conducted in 2016 to gain perspectives of healthcare students on Bonded Medical Places (BMP). The results at the time were used to compile a position paper for use in advocating for students and understanding student support levels regarding Bonded Medical Programs by the National Rural Health Student Network.

What is the project about?

The research project aims to repeat the 2016 survey and understand changing attitudes in light of Federal Government funding structure changes and changes to return of service obligations. We are interested in the views of future rural healthcare practitioners regarding the structure and support of these programs.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by the National Rural Health Student Network (NRHSN). The survey will also be used to form the basis of a MD project for Harry Jude, under the supervision of Associate Professor Catherine Harding in the School of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey, which will ask you questions about your opinions in relation to bonded medical places and how this would impact your likelihood to practice rurally. It should take you about 10 minutes to complete.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

There is no foreseeable risk in you participating in this research project. There is a small possibility because of low numbers in some student cohorts that students may be identifiable. No identifiable data will be used in any publication of the research results.

What are the benefits of the research project?

Bonded Medical Places are a Federal Government initiative to help address the rural workforce shortage of doctors.

Assessing the efficacy of BMP's in attracting persons to work in rural areas is difficult. This is due in part to the fact that the return of service requirements for students who enter a BMP contract have changed frequently and the identity of BMP students and graduates is confidential.

This research project will then instead attempt to understand the functionality and role of the BMP scheme by assessing students understanding of the scheme. This survey will aim to collect data on attitudes toward BMP's, understanding of what a BMP is, and opinions on why a student may or may not want to enter a BMP contact.

The benefits of a project like this would include collating data that demonstrates if the current program is well supported by those it is targeting, indicating an indirect measure of its likelihood to succeed.

What if I change my mind?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Even if you begin the survey, you are free to withdraw by simply not completing it. However, once you complete the survey and submit it back to us, you won't be able to withdraw it because we will have no way of knowing which survey is yours.

Non-participation or withdrawal will not affect your ongoing studies. As the survey is anonymous, we will not know who has participated.

Will anyone else know the results of the project?

Completed surveys will be stored securely on a password protected computer and only the National Rural Health Student Network will have access to this information. The Medical Officer of the National Rural Health Student Network ([Harry Jude](#)) will analyse the results.

Who is NRHSN?

The National Rural Health Student Network (NRHSN) represents the future of rural health in Australia and provides a voice for students who are passionate about improving health outcomes for rural and remote Australians. NRHSN aims to provide a voice for multidisciplinary students who are interested in improving health outcomes for rural and remote Australians; and to promote rural health careers to students and encourage students who are interested in practising in rural health career in the future.

Who Administers NRHSN

NSW Rural Doctors Network administer the National Rural Health Student Network on behalf of the National Consortium of Rural Workforce Agencies. The purpose of the Administrator's role is to support the NRHSN to achieve its aims. Apart from distributing the survey to the NRHSN database, NSW Rural Doctors Network are not participating or contributing to the survey in any way.

What will I be doing with the data?

Some of the results may be published as a journal article and will be the basis of Harry Jude's (NRHSN Medical Officer) MD thesis (If you have any concerns in relation to this please contact A/Prof Catherine Harding at (02) 8204 4106 or via catherine.harding@nd.edu.au.) Once the study is completed, the survey information will be stored securely within the NRHSN database that is currently administered by NSW Rural Doctors Network.

Will I be able to find out the results of the project?

Once we have analysed the information from the surveys, a summary of our findings will be distributed to the National Rural Health Student Network and Australian Medical Student Association. You can expect to receive this feedback in the next 12 months.

The findings of this research will also form a position paper which will be available to all healthcare students.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact the Medical Officer, Harry Jude at medical@nrhsn.org.au. We are happy to discuss with you any concerns you may have about this study.

What if I have a concern or complaint?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Notre Dame Australia (approval number 019095S). If you have a concern or complaint regarding the ethical conduct of this research project and would like to speak to an independent person, please contact Notre Dame's Research Ethics Officer at (+61 8) 9433 0943 or research@nd.edu.au. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

How do I sign up to participate?

If you are happy to participate, please click on the following button to access the survey.

[Participate in Survey](#)

Thank you for your time. This sheet is for you to keep.