



## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Research project: 'Evaluation of a state-wide allied health workforce education program in Victoria'**

Attracting and retaining allied health professionals in rural areas is a recognised problem in both Australia and overseas. A range of factors have been associated with allied health workforce recruitment and retention. The objectives of this research project are to: (i) identify professional needs of allied health professionals, particularly those who practice in rural Victoria (ii) measure acceptability of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) delivery via video conferencing or via the internet (iii) determine whether the contents of CPD events is congruent with the objectives defined by the presenters; and (iv) find out whether the program assisted professionals in staying in or re-entering the rural workforce.

This study may provide information on the value of CPD in supporting allied health professionals in rural practice.

If you choose to participate, you will be given a letter of introduction in addition to this information form, and a consent form (these are available for download from the website). Also, you will be asked your opinion in relation to issues related to CPD via an online survey at the time of accessing the statewide CPD program and six months later.

All allied health professionals have access to CPD as part of this pilot study. There are no direct benefits to you associated with this study. Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any time. If you decide not to participate in this study or if you withdraw, you may do this freely without prejudice to any treatment at the hospital you worked.

No information that could lead to your identification will be released. The questions in the survey will seek opinions. There will be no risk to the participants in the project.

Should you require further details about the project, either before, during or after the study, you may contact Assoc Prof Adrian Schoo on Ph 5551 8443, or at the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health, PO Box 283, Hamilton 3300.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee. The Secretary of this Committee can be contacted on (08) 8201 5962, fax (08) 8201 2035 or e-mail [sandy.huxtable@flinders.edu.au](mailto:sandy.huxtable@flinders.edu.au).