

# Plain Language Statement

Melbourne Veterinary School

## ***Project: AVA Workforce Survey***



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**Additional Researchers:**

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### **Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

### **What is this research about?**

This research continues the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Workforce Surveys that have been conducted over the past decade. It is aimed at identifying the current state of the veterinary profession in Australia and future intentions of veterinarians. The results from this research will be used to help improve the understanding of the workforce and workforce planning.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

Should you agree to participate you will be asked to complete an online survey. The survey should take between 10-20 minutes to complete and is voluntary. You may exit the survey at any time if you no longer wish to answer any further questions.

### **What are the possible benefits?**

The results of the research will provide current data on the nature of the veterinary profession. It will be useful in workforce planning as the profession works to resolve the current shortage of veterinarians and to minimise the length and severity of future shortages.

### **What are the possible risks?**

The survey does not collect any personal contact details or identify you personally in the data. Subgroup analysis will be undertaken, however the size of the subgroups used will be aggregated to a level that will not allow individuals to be identified.

Some of the questions in the survey are of a sensitive nature. These are voluntary in nature, so you may choose to not provide answers to those questions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with the survey, you may stop. The AVA phone counselling service is available via: 1300 687 327.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw at any time.

### **Will I hear about the results of this project?**

The AVA will publish the results of the research online and promote the results through AVA publications. Results may also be presented at the AVA conferences.

### **What will happen to information about me?**

The data collected through the survey will be held securely by the AVA. Survey responses will be held by the AVA and available for use in broader research projects on the veterinary workforce (ie analysis with past and future AVA workforce surveys). It may from time to time be released under conditions to external researchers. These conditions would include ethics approval.

### **Where can I get further information?**

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researcher; Mr Graham Pratt [graham.pratt@ava.com.au](mailto:graham.pratt@ava.com.au).

### **Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne [Project ID: 27007]. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: [research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.