INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: “EVALUATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING IN UNDERSERVED RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS”

You are invited to take part in a research project about the educational and community impact of General Practice (GP) training in underserved rural and remote areas. The study is being conducted by Professor Richard Murray and will contribute to informing future strategies to improve the delivery of high quality GP registrar training in underserved areas.

Purpose of study

Extensive effort and funding is invested in GP training in Australia but there is little data on outcomes and the differences made to communities with responsibility for providing GP training. JCU has found that selecting medical graduates with an interest in rural/remote medicine and providing them with positive rural and remote training experiences is as important for future rural practice as providing a rural pathway for Rural Clinical School graduates. This study explores the educational impact on GP registrars training in rural and remote locations and how establishing GP training impacts underserved communities from a health workforce, health service, economic and social perspective. Results from this study will assist JCU to work with communities and practices to strengthen health care in underserved north and west Queensland communities. This will ensure that the current registrar training activities are meeting JCU’s strategic intent and aiding future planning.

This study aims to explore both:
1. The educational impact of training in rural and remote training posts on GP registrars.
2. The community impact of training GP registrars in rural and remote training using the domains of: health workforce, private primary care health service outcomes, social and economic outcomes.

Involvement in this study

You are invited to participate in the community impact part of the study which will involve an in-depth semi-structured interview exploring the impact of GP training in your community around the four domains: health workforce, health service, social and economic outcomes. Participation is voluntary and you can stop taking part in the study at any time without explanation or prejudice. If you choose to participate, you will be invited to an interview which will be conducted face-to-face by a research assistant who is not involved in teaching and/or assessment at a time that is suitable to you and may take 20-30 minutes. The interview will be audio-taped with your permission.

Possible Risks

There are no specific risks anticipated with participation in this study. However, if you have any ethical questions related to the study, please contact Professor Richard Murray or Associate Professor Carole Reeve.

Anonymity

All data emanating from this research project will be coded as a means of protecting your anonymity and confidentiality. All responses will be treated as confidential and they will be de-identified for data analysis and subsequent presentation of findings.

Confidentiality

The researcher will ensure that all information will be treated in a confidential manner, and your name will not be used in any publication arising out of the research. All data collected during this research project will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the office of the principal investigator for the duration of the project and for a period of five years after the publication of results. After this period, all the research data will be securely destroyed. Only the researchers will have access to this data.

What if I change my mind about being involved?
It is important that you understand that your involvement in this study is voluntary. While we would be pleased to have you participate, we respect your right to decline. There will be no consequences to you if you decide not to participate. Should you wish to, you may withdraw at any time without explanation. You may also request that any data you have supplied to date be removed.

Has this research project been approved by the university?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee. The project number is H7497. If you have complaints about the conduct of this study, you should contact the Human Ethics, Research Office, James Cook University, Townsville, Qld, 4811. Phone: (07) 4781 5011 (ethics@jcu.edu.au)

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Professor Richard Murray or Associate Professor Carole Reeve

Principal Investigator:  
Professor Richard Murray  
College of Medicine and Dentistry  
James Cook University  
Phone: 07 4781 5025  
Email: richard.murray@jcu.edu.au

Co-Investigator Details:  
Name: Associate Professor Carole Reeve  
College of Medicine and Dentistry  
James Cook University  
Phone: 0447 322 931  
Email: carole.reeve@jcu.edu.au

If you have any concerns regarding the ethical conduct of the study, please contact:  
Human Ethics, Research Office  
James Cook University, Townsville, Qld, 4811  
Phone: (07) 4781 5011 (ethics@jcu.edu.au)