EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Health Professional Survey

Project ID: 22759
Project title: Plus Paternal: A focus on fathers

Project team members

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You are invited to take part in this survey. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether you would like to complete the survey. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the project team via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the study involve?

The project, Plus Paternal Health: A focus on fathers aims to improve the health of men and their children. The Project will examine the experiences and health needs of men on their journeys to fatherhood and their interactions with the health system – from preconception to early parenting. It will determine how best to support men at various stages, how to reduce the barriers to men engaging with reproductive health services and the key systems reforms and support for health professionals necessary to improve engagement.

It is important that this work is informed by the experiences and views of health professionals and this survey provides an opportunity for you to have your say.
This anonymous online survey is for medical, nursing and allied health professionals who, through their practice, may come in contact with men along the pathway to fatherhood. This may be through the provision of services related to fertility, pregnancy, birthing and/or care of new families within the first year of a child’s life. It will ask questions about your practice at different points across the pathway and also your ideas on how the system could be improved.

We expect the survey will take around 15 minutes of your time.

**Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

You don’t need to complete any formal consent processes for this research. By clicking on the survey link, we will assume your consent to participate. Note that the survey is anonymous and you can choose to skip any questions that you would prefer not to answer. Given the survey is anonymous, it will not be possible to withdraw your answers after they have been submitted.

**Benefits to participants**

Through participating in this survey, you will help to inform Healthy Male’s future work to improve the engagement and support of men as fathers and potential future fathers in the health system. Your participation will enable us to hear from the experiences of health professionals at the ‘coal face’ to ensure that the solutions that are developed are relevant and appropriate.

**Confidentiality**

The survey responses are all anonymous and it will not be possible for you to be identified in any way. The publication and presentation of findings arising from this research will be in a summarised format, with any direct quotes deidentified.

**Storage of data**

The data collected through the online survey tool will be stored in QualTrics (the online tool software provider) and by the Healthy Male project team once exported. Healthy Male will store the data in an electronic form in Microsoft OneDrive. The project files are password protected with multi-factor authentication and will only be accessible to members of the project team (note that this includes the two independent consultants). All data will be retained for a period of seven years after the survey is completed so that we can refer back to the data if there are any questions arising from publications we have created from this work. After that time, all files will be permanently destroyed.

**Results**

The results from this survey will be analysed and presented as part of the consultation processes for the *Plus Paternal* project. The results will also be published on the Healthy Male website and may also be presented at conferences and prepared as a manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal in the men’s health and/or reproductive health fields.

**Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):
Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Room 111, Chancellery Building D
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With thanks

[Signature]

Robert McLachlan
Chief Investigator