

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LETTER and Consent Form (PICF)

Online Survey

PROJECT TITLE: Preparedness of Australian Paramedic Academics to teach Evidence Based Practice

APPLICATION NUMBER: (2026- 4618E)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr Scott Stewart

Dear Participant,

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

1. What is the project about?

The research project aims to *assess the perception of Evidence Based Practice relevance, confidence, terminology, practice and sympathy among paramedics teaching into paramedic degrees and compare them with results from 10 years ago to measure changes and detect current barriers and facilitators*. You are invited because *you teach into a paramedic degree program*, and your contact details were obtained from Australasian College of Paramedicine, Australasian Council of Paramedic Deans or you responded to a social media post.

2. Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by *Dr Scott Stewart and Ms Kylie Kendrick* at the Australian Catholic University. The researchers are both experienced paramedic academics with experience in both qualitative and quantitative research. Dr Stewart's PhD focused on preparedness of paramedic academics to teach evidence-based practice.

3. Who can take part in this study?

Participation in this study is subject to certain eligibility criteria:

- You **are** able to take part if you are a APHRA registered paramedic teaching into an APHRA accredited paramedic degree in Australia.
- You will **not be able** to take part if you:
 - are not a APHRA registered paramedic and / or
 - do not teach into an APHRA accredited paramedicine degree in Australia.

4. What will I need to do to participate in this study??

If you decide to take part in this research, you will complete an *anonymous* online survey. The survey will ask you to answer questions about your *relevance, confidence, terminology, practice and sympathy in relation to evidence based practice as well as collecting demographic data*. It is anticipated the anonymous

online questionnaire will take approximately *15 min* to complete. You are asked to avoid providing data that would identify individuals, groups or locations.

5. Do I have to take part in this research?

There is no obligation to participate in this research and if you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw without consequence and explanation at any stage. Your decision to participate or not, or to take part and withdraw, will in no way affect your relationship with ACU or any parties involved in this research.

Before deciding to take part in this research study, please read the information carefully and feel free to ask questions, or to talk things over with a relative or friend. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete an online Consent Form at the end of this document and to keep a copy of this form.

6. Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

Whilst there are no foreseeable risks, you may find *some of the questions uncomfortable or distressing*. If you were to become distressed or upset by any of the questions, you can skip a question, take a break, or simply stop and close your browser, as this research is completely voluntary.

If you require support from someone not involved in this research, please contact the free services below:

Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Life Line	13 11 14

7. Are there any costs or reimbursements involved?

There are no costs or reimbursements when participating in this study beyond your time.

8. What are the benefits of the research project?

Although there may be no direct benefits to your involvement in this research, the benefits from this research include an update on a 10-year-old profile of EBP engagement in the paramedic academic workforce. This may identify both persistent and emerging challenges in teaching EBP skills to paramedic students and will generate recommendations to support the professional development of paramedic academics.

9. Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are not under any obligation to participate. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time without adverse consequences by closing the browser before submission, and your data will not be used for this study. Once you have submitted the survey however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses, as the survey is anonymous.

10. Will anyone else know the results of the project or have access to my information?

Any information or personal details gathered during this study are confidential and will not be shared with third parties without your consent, unless as required by law. The data from this research project will only be accessible to the research team and will be shared and stored on the ACU secure servers for 15 years in a *non-identifiable format where your identity will remain unknown*.

ACU will manage your personal information and share data in accordance with its Privacy Policy and, where applicable, international regulations, such as the EU/UK's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In limited cases, your data may also be viewable to ACU systems/software staff and administrators to address IT issues and anonymised responses may be used by Qualtrics to improve and train its AI models.

With your consent, data may also be used for future research or shared with collaborators for the purposes of further research into the paramedic academic cohort and made available in a deidentified format, through a research data repository or open access arrangement or could be reassessed by the researchers named on this study for future studies relating to evidence-based practice

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

The results of the study will be published in peer reviewed journals and presented at academic conferences. A copy of the results will be provided to the Australasian College of Paramedicine and Australasian Council of Paramedic Deans. All information about you will be published in an aggregated format way that will not identify you. If you would like to receive a copy of the results, please contact a member of the research team listed below. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.

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

If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact a member/s of the research team below.

Name	Dr Scott Stewart
Position	Senior Lecturer
Telephone	+61 3 5336 548
Email	scott.stewart@acu.edu.au
Name	Ms Kylie Kendrick
Position	Senior Lecturer
Telephone	+61 3 5336 5375
Email	kylie.kendrick@acu.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

The study has been reviewed by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Australian Catholic University (review number 2026- 4618E). If you have any complaints or concerns about the conduct of the project,

you may email the Manager of Research Ethics and Integrity, the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at Resethics.manager@acu.edu.au

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and reviewed and acted upon, as appropriate.

13. I want to participate, what do I have to do?

Submission of the online survey is an indication of your consent. By clicking 'yes, I agree to participate' after the Consent statement below and clicking the submit button at the end of the survey, you are providing your permission for the research team to collect and use information about you for the research study.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Scott Stewart



Mrs Kylie Kendrick



Please retain a copy of this information letter

Consent Form – Survey

Declaration by the participant

- I have read the Participant Information Sheet. I have had an opportunity to ask questions, and I am satisfied with the answers I have received. I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study, and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with ACP, ACOPD or any of the research team members.
 - I understand I am agreeing to participate in all procedures or activities as outlined in section 4 of the PICF.
 - I may exit the survey at any time by closing the survey 'window' on my device and there is no obligation to answer all questions or finish the survey. If I exit the survey before submitting my responses, my responses will not be included in the research.
 - I understand my responses to this survey are anonymous, and responses cannot be withdrawn after submission because they are not individually identifiable.
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- I consent to my research data, as described at section 10 of this document, being used for future research, and being shared by the research team and its collaborators. Only data that is specific to the aims of this research, an extension of, or closely related to, will be used. All information will be shared in a format that will not identify me in any way.*

- clicking 'yes, I agree to participate' below, will open the survey. Are you happy to proceed?

yes, I agree to participate.

https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3gnwavKjoWA6BU
