

## PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM



**TO:** AHPRA-registered optometrists

### Plain Language Statement

**Date:** 27 January 2021

**Full Project Title:** Infection control in Australian optometry

**Principal Researcher:** Kerryn Hart (Optometry Australia and Deakin University)

**Associate Researcher(s):** Dr Alexandra Jaworski (Deakin University), Professor Fiona Stapleton (University of New South Wales), Dr Nicole Carnt (University of New South Wales), Ka-Yee Lian (Private practitioner)

You are receiving this invitation to participate in a research project as you are a current member of Optometry Australia or have seen a post on one of their social media channels. Now, more-than-ever, infection control practices are at the forefront of practitioner's minds, so this research affords a unique opportunity to investigate optometrists' infection control knowledge, attitudes and behaviours as well as the barriers to implementing best-practice infection control. The study will also determine the impact of COVID-19 on infection control practices in optometry. Finally, the project aims to discover what educational resources are being utilised by optometrists to guide their infection control practices. The information collected may be used to explore where improvements could be made in infection control education and how this might best be done.

#### **What is involved?**

Participation involves completion of a short online questionnaire that should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Your participation in this research is completely voluntary and your decision to participate or otherwise will not affect your relationship with researchers, Optometry Australia or Deakin University. If you consent to us approaching you again in approximately six weeks' time, we would like you to complete another short survey before or after reading additional education resources. This additional survey should only take 10 minutes to complete.

#### **Are there benefits to participating?**

You may not benefit directly from the research; however, it could provide you with an opportunity to reflect on your current infection control knowledge, attitude and practice

Plain Language Statement & Consent Form to Participants

behaviours. Once the research is complete, it is hoped that the appropriate educational resources can be targeted in future infection control updates to improve infection control practices across the optometry profession, which would also benefit the broader community.

If you decide to participate in the first stage of this research study, you can opt in to participate in a draw to win one of four (4) \$200 virtual pre-paid Mastercards. If you would like to go in the prize draw you will need to provide your name and contact details at the end of the survey and tell us in 25 words or less 'what has changed in your infection control practices since COVID-19?' Your contact details will be de-coupled from your survey responses and prize draw entry so will therefore, remain confidential. A staff member from Optometry Australia will judge the prize draw with the anonymised responses. The principal investigator will contact the prize winners. Please see the full terms and conditions of entry into the prize draw here (provide link).

At the end of this survey, you will be asked if you are interested in being contacted to participate in a follow-up study. If you participate in the follow-up study, you can opt in to a prize draw to win one of twenty (20) \$50 e-gift cards. You could also be eligible to claim CPD hours after reading additional educational resources and completing a shorter version of this initial survey. The additional resources should take approximately three hours to read. As always, your participation in this follow-up study will be completely voluntary so you are under no obligation to provide your contact details when prompted. Furthermore, even if you let us know you are interested now, you are under no obligation to participate in the follow-up study when we contact you in approximately two months' time. Contact details will be used solely for the purpose of conducting the follow-up study and not in the research analysis; they will be accessible to the research team, but will remain confidential at all times. However, if you agree to participate in the second stage of the research project, the survey software will attribute a re-identifiable code to your survey responses. You will need to retain this unique code and quote this code when you complete the second survey.

### **How will my privacy and confidentiality be protected?**

Any information collected and stored will remain confidential and will only be accessible by the researchers. Data will be stored digitally on password-protected files and by a password-protected computer at both Optometry Australia and Deakin University. No identifying information will be used in any publication, presentation or report arising from the research.

### **How can I find out more?**

If you would like any further information or have any questions about the project, please contact Kerryn Hart (email: [k.hart@optomerty.org.au](mailto:k.hart@optomerty.org.au); phone: (03) 9668 8510).

### **How can I participate?**

If you wish to participate, please click on the link below, which will take you directly to the questionnaire. By submitting the survey, you are consenting to be part of this research project and participants can withdraw only prior to submitting the survey.

### **Complaints**

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, [research-ethics@deakin.edu.au](mailto:research-ethics@deakin.edu.au)

Please quote project number HEAG-H 238\_2020.

**SURVEY LINK:** [https://researchsurveys.deakin.edu.au/jfe/form/SV\\_OrBdHTstdMyEcBL](https://researchsurveys.deakin.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_OrBdHTstdMyEcBL)