

# PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

## Information for Prospective Participants

*The following research activity has been reviewed via QUT arrangements for the conduct of research involving human participation. If you choose to participate, you will be provided with more detailed participant information, including who you can contact if you have any concerns.*

### Communication of Scientific Uncertainty to Health Professionals

#### **Research team contacts**

**Principal Researcher:** Professor Kerrie Mengersen, QUT & Adjunct Professor Peter Baade, QUT/Cancer Council QLD

**Associate Researcher:** Jessie Roberts, QUT; Dr Susanna Cramb, Cancer Council QLD; Mr Phil Gough, QUT.

#### **What is the purpose of the research?**

The purpose of this research is to gather feedback on the intuitiveness, clarity and user experience of a range of different disease mapping visualisation designs. The visualisations aim to communicate statistical information about the patterns of cancer in Australia, including measures of uncertainty or reliability associated with this information.

#### **Are you looking for people like me?**

The research team is looking for health professionals who have no or limited formal training in statistics.

#### **What will you ask me to do?**

Your participation will involve taking part in a 2-hour focus group that will discuss the effectiveness, intuitiveness and clarity of a range of methods of visualising statistical data. These visualisations will summarise how patterns of cancer incidence and survival vary depending on where people live. The focus group will explore how uncertainty, reliability and accuracy are communicated within these visualisations.

#### **Are there any risks for me in taking part?**

Within the focus group we will be discussing the effectiveness of a range of techniques used to visually summarise the patterns of cancer outcomes by geographical areas. If this topic is sensitive to you, there is a chance you may feel some mild emotional stress. However, the discussion in the focus group will be focused on the effectiveness of the visualisation rather than the cancer incidence/survival rates. Apart from a potential for mild emotional stress mentioned above, the research team do not believe there are any additional risks, beyond normal day-to-day living, associated with this project. It should be noted that if you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from participation at any time during the project without comment or penalty.

#### **Are there any benefits for me in taking part?**

It is expected that this project will not benefit you directly. However, it will help researchers to learn ways in which they can communicate statistical information to health professionals more effectively. This will mean that health professionals will have a greater understanding of what these statistics mean, the implications they might have for the people they care for, and being better able to convey that information to those people

From a broader perspective, this research will contribute to the wider field of science communication by furthering our understanding of how to effectively visualise and communicate health statistics, including reliability and certainty, to a wider range of the community.

#### **Will I be compensated for my time?**

No, but we would very much appreciate your participation in this research. However, a light lunch will be provided for the early afternoon focus group, and a light supper provided for the evening focus group.

#### **Who is funding this research?**

The project is funded through the Ivan Maurice Jones Endowment (managed by Perpetual). The funding body will not have access to any personally identifying information about you that may be obtained during the project.

#### **I am interested – what should I do next?**

If you would like more details about the study, please contact the Research Team through our website <https://cancerqld.org.au/news/help-fight-cancer-sharing-thoughts-health-professionals/>, or alternatively contact Jessie Roberts, [jessie.roberts@qut.edu.au](mailto:jessie.roberts@qut.edu.au), 07 3138 6982.

You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

**Thank You!**

**QUT Ethics Approval Number:1500000917**