

Participant Information Statement

Research Study: Harnessing insights about homeopathy in Australia - Homeopathy Workforce Survey (HWFS)



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1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study to uniquely identify the nature of the Australian homeopathic workforce. This will be done via an annual survey over the next five years. Understanding the profession's demographics, skills, qualifications and work environment aims to:

- more accurately reflect the current workforce describing its professional identity and culture
- enable growth of the profession
- enhance communication within the profession
- identify areas for capacity building within the profession
- inform future education and registration processes
- better serve the community who use homoeopathy as part of their healthcare provision

The survey includes a combination of quantitative workforce demographic questions and qualitative inquiry questions to answer the research question:

What are the main characteristics and demographics of the homoeopathic workforce in Australia?

Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

2. Who is running the study?

The study is being conducted jointly by The Aurum Project and the Australian Register of Homoeopaths. The researchers are:

- Sandra Venables (chief investigator/researcher), Secretary of ARoH, AP
- Dr Celeste Salter (investigator/researcher), AP
- Michelle Hookham (investigator/researcher), AP
- Gabrielle Brodie (investigator/researcher), AP

The operating costs of the study are being jointly funded by the Australian Register of Homoeopaths and The Aurum Project. There are no other external funding bodies and there are no financial benefits to the researchers or sponsors arising from the research. The researchers are volunteering their time to conduct the study.

There are no known potential/actual conflicts of interest for researchers or sponsors involved in the project.

3. Who can take part in the study?

Year One Pilot Study:

All ARoH professional members will be invited to participate.

Years Two to Five:

All ARoH professional members will be invited to participate annually over the research period. In addition, the following organisations will be invited to share the survey with their members and colleagues as a way to broaden the scope of the research. These organisations include:

- AP members practising homoeopathy in Australia
- Associations with homeopathic members - HERA, AHA, ATMS, ANTA, Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONaH) and other naturopathy and herbal associations, chiropractic, osteopathic, midwife and doula associations in Australia
- suppliers of homoeopathic remedies - Martin and Pleasance, bWellness, Brauer, Owens, Simillimum
- social media - social media groups for Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) practitioners in Facebook, and instant messaging sites.

4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in an online survey. An email will be sent out to invitees with the link to participate in the survey. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and includes a combination of quantitative workforce demographic questions and qualitative inquiry questions.

5. Can I withdraw once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers.

We do not anticipate that your decision will affect your relationship with other participants or people in the homoeopathic profession, since your information is anonymous and experiences shared with the researchers is de-identified.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind you can withdraw at any point by discontinuing the survey.

6. Are there any risks or costs?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any other risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

7. Are there any benefits?

This research study is funded by AP and ARoH. There are no direct financial benefits to participants. However, there may be personal benefits from participating in the research.

Some people find it helpful to share their experiences and may benefit from knowing that their experiences might benefit others and the profession of homoeopathy.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By commencing the survey, you are providing your consent to participate; you are agreeing to the collection of information for the purposes of this study.

Data will be collected and stored in password protected applications on the Qualtrics XM database and accessible by the researchers only.

Survey responses are anonymous and not identifiable or linked to the participant.

All data will be downloaded from Qualtrics XM after the primary analysis and stored in secure cloud storage at The Aurum Project with password protection. This is only accessible by the research team.

Only de-identified data will be analysed. Data (experiences) generated from all participants will be collated and analysed to gather shared insights about the topic and to inform research outcomes.

All data will be stored for at least five years, after the publication of the survey results. (As specified by the NHMRC national statement for ethical conduct in human research, section 2.3).

We are planning for the study findings to be published. You will not be individually identifiable in these publications, since the data is de-identified.

9. Will I be told the results of the study?

The researchers expect to publish findings in peer-reviewed papers in relevant professional journals and to present the findings at conferences. Reports summaries will be available on the ARoH and AP websites.

You also have the right to receive a summary of the results when published. This is done via a separate link at the end of the survey and does not identify you with your responses.

10. What if I would like further information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher/s will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

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11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the National Institute for Integrative Medicine (NIIM) (HREC Approval #:) according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact NIIM:

Human Ethics Manager, NIIM Human Research Ethics Committee Secretary at hrec@niim.com.au

You can also contact The Aurum Project's Research Integrity Officer, Dr Sabina Vatter, at researchio@aurumproject.org.au to express any concerns about this research

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