

Dear Participant,

Thank you for your interest in completing this survey.

Before completing the survey, please carefully read the following information. Please keep a copy of this information sheet.

Why is the research being conducted?

The research is being conducted in collaboration with the NSW Public Services Association for members in Community Services within the Department of Communities and Justice that seeks to understand the mental health and stress impacts of COVID-19 on frontline human service staff among Police, Paramedics, Family & Community Services, and Community Nurses.

Who is conducting the research?

The Workforce Wellness Research Unit (WWRU) at Charles Sturt University is conducting the research. The team associated with this survey comprises:

Chief Investigator Professor Russell Roberts

Co-Chief Investigator Dr Abbey Dwivedi

adwivedi@csu.edu.au

Professor Peter O'Meara (Monash University)

Dr Mark Frost

Dr Larissa Bamberry

Dr Stacey Jenkins

Dr Alain Neher

Clare Sutton

Robyne Young

What are you asked to do?

You will be asked questions regarding how COVID-19 has impacted you and your organisation. There are no right or wrong answers; we just want your opinion. The survey should take around 30 minutes to complete.

Risks to you

This survey will ask questions related to your work-related experience of COVID-19 (and possibly bushfires). There is a minor risk this may invoke some psychological discomfort or distress. If this is the case you can contact your GP, Employee Assistance Program, Converge on 1300 687 327

or Lifeline 13 11 14. Additionally, if you feel this may cause distress, or at any time you feel distressed you are under no obligation to complete the survey or may skip those questions.

The expected benefits of the research

The findings of this research will add to the knowledge on the impact of COVID-19 on paramedics working within NSW Ambulance. The major findings will be fed back to your organisation or member body without disclosing any personal data. A copy of the final will report will be available online at <https://bjbs.csu.edu.au/research/areas/workforce-wellness> at the Projects tab.

Your confidentiality

Your anonymity is vital to this research. All responses to this online survey go directly to the researchers at Charles Sturt University. No individual or identifying data will be provided to your parent organisation. For the research to be valid and useful, we need honest and frank responses, made without fear or favour. All data will be kept in accord with Charles Sturt University data security protocols.

Your participation

Your participation is entirely voluntary, you don't have to answer every question and can stop at any time. However, once you complete the survey and press the 'submit' button, we cannot withdraw your responses. To ensure your anonymity, we cannot trace or identify individual responses.

Contact

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Co-chief investigator, Dr Abbey Dwivedi, email: adwivedi@csu.edu.au

Ethical standards and Complaints

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee on 02 6933 4213 or ethics@csu.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.