



## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Project ID:** 28552

**Project title:** GPs knowledge, attitudes and prescribing intentions for e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid

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You are invited to take part in this study that aims to understand the current levels of general practitioner's knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and prescribing intentions in respect to e-cigarettes in the context of smoking cessation.

Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are able to contact the researchers via their phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

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

This research project is being conducted as part of doctoral research by Melis Selamoglu. A significant change to policy impacting the availability of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes in Australia took effect from October 1, 2021. This change means that nicotine containing liquids for use with e-cigarettes will only be available by prescription from a health care provider.

It is anticipated that this study will provide valuable insights to GPs needs in relation to e-cigarettes and contribute to guideline development and recommendations that can be used to support GPs role in supporting patients in smoking cessation.

### **Why were you invited for this research?**

There is a need to better understand these issues in the context of Australian general practice given the recent policy changes, from October 1, 2021, impacting the availability of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes in Australia.

A representative sample of GPs from across Australia has been invited from information held by the Australasian Medical Publishing Company (AMPCo), and this sample has been enriched with GPs registered with Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) around the nation.

### **What will participants be asked to do?**

The study is in two parts. The first part will involve completing a short survey that asks about e-cigarettes and their role as a smoking cessation aid. The survey can be completed anonymously and you won't be asked any questions

that could identify you. The second part of the study involves taking part in a one on one qualitative interview to further explore your experiences and needs in respect to e-cigarettes. Please indicate if you are able to participate in just the survey component, or if you are able to complete both the survey and qualitative interview.

You will also be asked to indicate if you would be willing to complete a follow up survey in 12 months time at the end of the questionnaire.

At the end of the survey you will be able to enter into a prize draw to win one of three \$500 gift vouchers. If you would like to enter this draw you will be asked to provide an email address so that we are able to contact you about the prize draw.

All participants who take part in a qualitative interview will receive a \$100 gift voucher.

### **Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research**

Participation in any research project is voluntary. Please be aware that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. When you reach the end of the survey you will be asked if you would like to submit your answers. As the survey is anonymous, once you have submitted your answers we won't be able to remove this information. It is important to note that if you do not wish to answer a question, you do not have to. Taking part or declining to take part in this study will not influence your association with Monash University in any way.

### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

We anticipate that this study will benefit GPs by identifying ways that they can be supported in discussions with patients about e-cigarettes and about smoking cessation. This information may also be useful to inform future health policy and guideline recommendations for smoking cessation.

There are no anticipated risks to completing the survey which can be completed anonymously. Any identifying information collected (for example as part of a prize draw, or for qualitative research) will not be linked to the survey data. Qualitative information will be de-identified by the use of ID numbers or pseudonyms.

Survey respondents will be eligible to be part of a prize draw to win one of three \$500 vouchers upon completing the survey.

If respondents participate in a qualitative interview they will be able to receive a \$100 voucher upon completion of the interview.

### **Confidentiality**

Survey responses will not be linked to any identifying information. All information collected will be kept securely at Monash University. Only researchers and staff associated with this project will have access to any identifying information that is collected.

### **Storage of data**

We will store electronic data on the secure Monash University password protected network. The data will be stored securely and destroyed/deleted 7 years after publication in accordance with research governance guidelines.

### **Use of data for other purposes**

The data provided as part of this project may be used in future research projects involving the secondary analysis of data. If this occurs, only de-identified data would be used for other projects where ethics approval has been granted.

De-identified data may be made available for data sharing requirements of publication in peer-reviewed journals. Individuals will not be identifiable in any documents published about the study.

## Results

At the end of the survey you will be asked if you would like to receive a summary of the study findings. You will need to provide your email address to receive the findings. The results obtained from this study will be presented at relevant conferences and meetings and we will seek to publish findings in peer-reviewed journals.

## Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,  
26 Sports Walk, Clayton Campus  
Research Office  
Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052      Email: [muhrec@monash.edu](mailto:muhrec@monash.edu)      Fax: +61 3 9905 3831

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melis Selamoglu', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Melis Selamoglu**