**Working towards Victorian research governance harmonisation**

**Research governance reform for low and negligible risk research survey**

***Introduction***

National Mutual Acceptance (NMA) of human research ethics approval has minimised duplication of ethical review throughout most of Australia. However, research must have both ethics approval and site authorisation (also known as governance approval) before commencing at any site.

Research governance is necessary so that projects are assessed for any potential risks to participants, researchers and organisations, and to ensure that these risks are adequately mitigated. Research governance also allows organisations to ensure that projects fit within their research agenda and that there is no conflict with other projects or standard practice. It also requires any impact on site resources to be considered and appropriately authorised. As these factors are essentially site-specific, each organisation is responsible for the site authorisation / governance approval of research at their own site(s). As such, hospitals (and other institutions) have developed their own processes for research governance.

Obtaining site authorisation / governance approval may cause delay following ethics approval, particularly for multi-site research, if processes, training and requirements differ between sites.

The three Victorian Research Translation Centres (Melbourne Academic Centre for Health, Monash Partners and Western Alliance) are collaborating on a number of initiatives to harmonise research governance processes. The Victorian Research Governance Streamlining Working Group is made up of key representatives from each of the three centres and has received funding from the state government to progress this work. The group’s aim is to minimise disparity of research governance processes across Victorian hospitals by developing state-wide guidelines.

The purpose of this survey is to explore the experiences and expectations of clinical research stakeholders and identify enablers and barriers to streamlined governance review of LNR research, CQRs and QA activity. The data collected will be used to inform a report to the state government that will outline areas in most need of improvement.

***Consent***

Your assistance by completing this anonymous, online survey would be greatly appreciated.

Participation is voluntary. By completing the survey your consent to participate will be implied. Once you submit your responses, they cannot be withdrawn, as it will not be possible to identify your responses.

Results will be presented as aggregated data and help to inform recommendations to the state government to improve research governance processes. Results may also be published in a peer-reviewed journal in such a way that it will not be possible to identify any individual.

There are no foreseeable risks to you by completing the survey.

All human research in Australia must be conducted in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (updated 2018). This project has been approved by Monash Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any complaints about the project or the way it is being conducted, you may contact Deborah Dell, Manager, HREC, Monash Health, via email at deborah.dell@monashhealth.org .

If you have any questions about the project, would like to discuss, or would like to obtain a copy of the results, you may contact the principal investigator, Grace Wijnen, via email at grace.wijnen@monash.edu .

The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes.

Please click [this link](https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25pheCwI1cUn9qe) to complete the survey.