

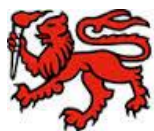


Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

# Hazelwood Health Study Sale Community Briefing – 24 August



MONASH University



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TASMANIA



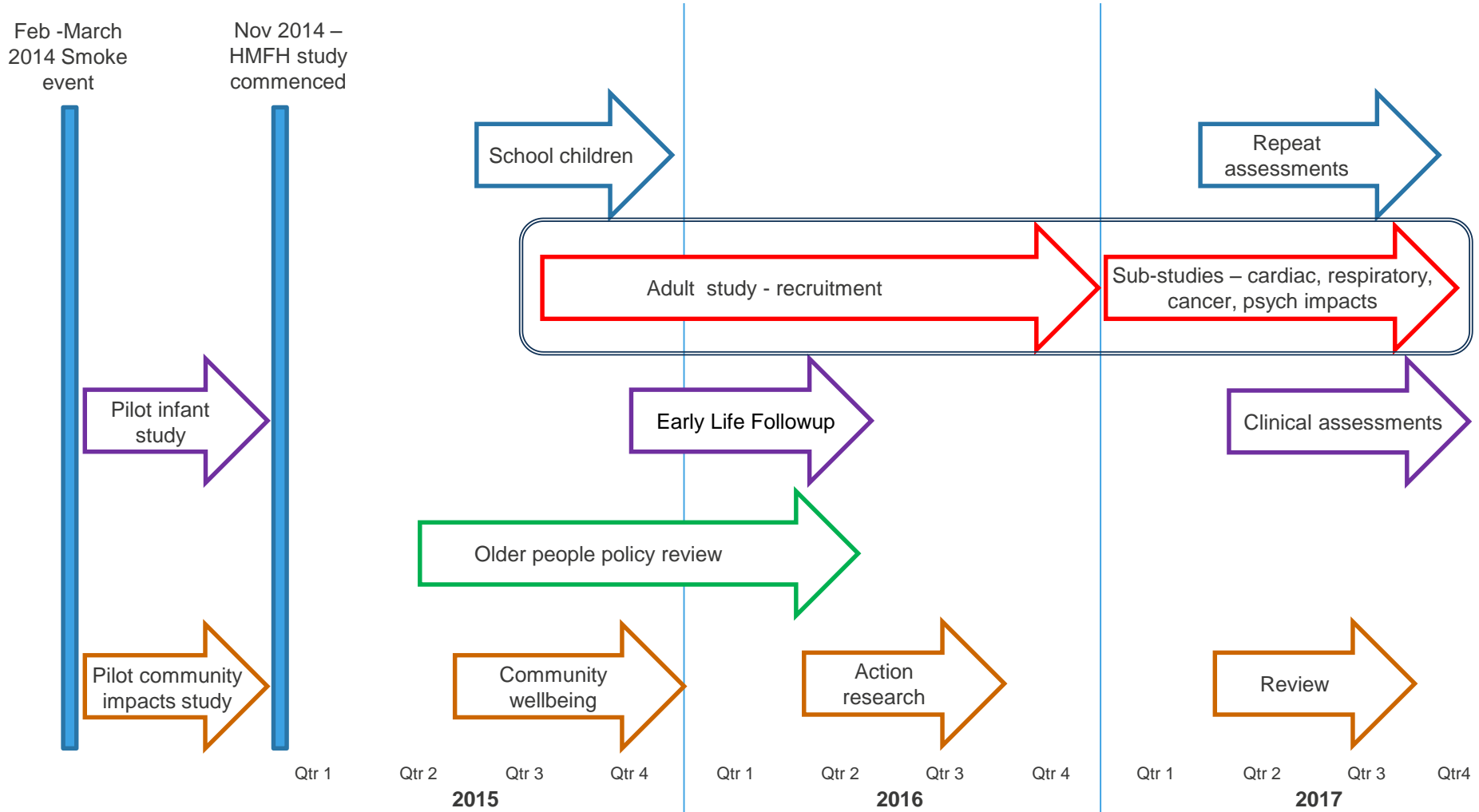
THE UNIVERSITY  
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# Presentation overview

1. Welcome
2. Study overview
3. Adult Survey
4. Why Sale?
5. Discussion

# 2. Study overview



## 2.1 Four main pillars of data collection

- Exposure assessment
  - Air monitoring data and modelling
  - Development of exposure metrics for participants
- Surveys of adults
  - Sociodemographics, pre-existing conditions
  - Risk factors eg. smoking
  - Exposure questions
  - Outcome measures
- Face-to-face evaluations for sub-studies:
  - e.g. lung and blood vessel function, blood tests for inflammation
- Data linkage:
  - e.g. ambulance, hospital, cancer and death data

## 3. Adult Survey

The aim of the Adult Survey is to determine whether exposure to smoke from the Hazelwood coal mine fire has affected the health of local residents. This will include comparisons with another community which was only minimally exposed to the mine fire smoke.

The specific objectives are:

- To determine the health status of the study population
- To determine individual risk and lifestyle factors for different conditions
- To provide information needed for development of exposure metrics
- To link to administrative health datasets (e.g. ambulance, hospital, cancer and Medicare data) over time

## 3.1 Eligibility criteria

- 18 years of age or older on 9 February 2014
- Resident in selected areas of the Sale Community at the time of the fire



## 3.2 Methodology

Participants will be asked to complete a survey about their location during the event, lifestyle and health factors

- Telephone (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews)
- Online
- On paper
- Face to face

Consent will be sought to authorise the study to have the participants' names searched in health databases such as

- Ambulance
- Hospital Admissions & Emergency Presentations
- Cancer Registry
- National Death Index

From the Adult Survey, participants will be selected to take part in clinical or psychological follow-up assessments. These sub-studies will commence once the Adult Survey data collection has finished, probably in 2017

## 3.3 Progress & Timelines

- Creation of the nominal roll, using MapData, Council lists and Electoral roll data
- Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), currently under negotiation
- Piloting of the questionnaires
  
- Pilot Study will take place later this year
- Data collection for the Adult Survey is expected to finish at the end of 2016

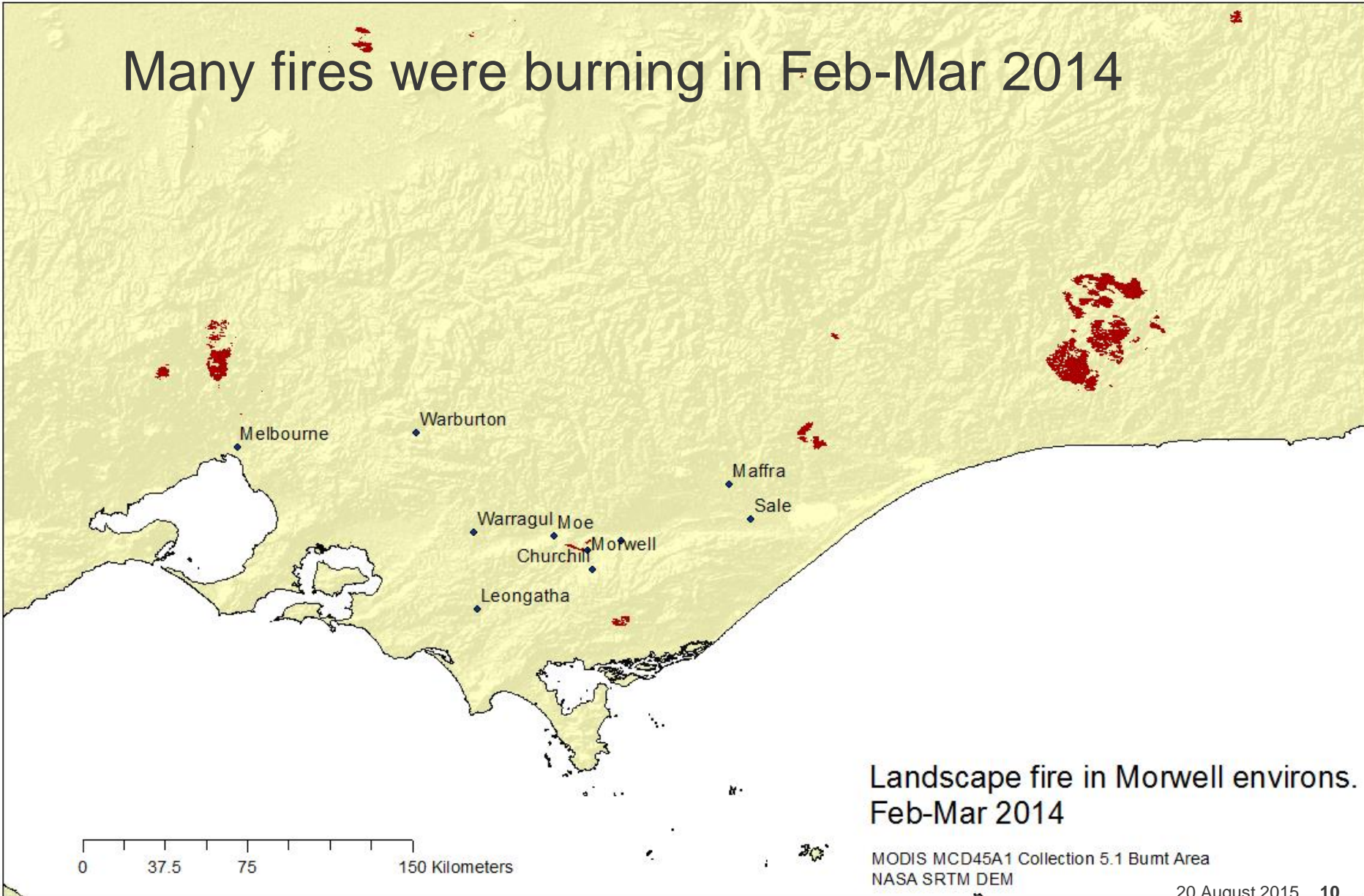


## 4. Comparison Community – why Sale?

Sale has been identified as the comparison community to participate in the study along with Morwell, based on consideration of a number of factors, including:

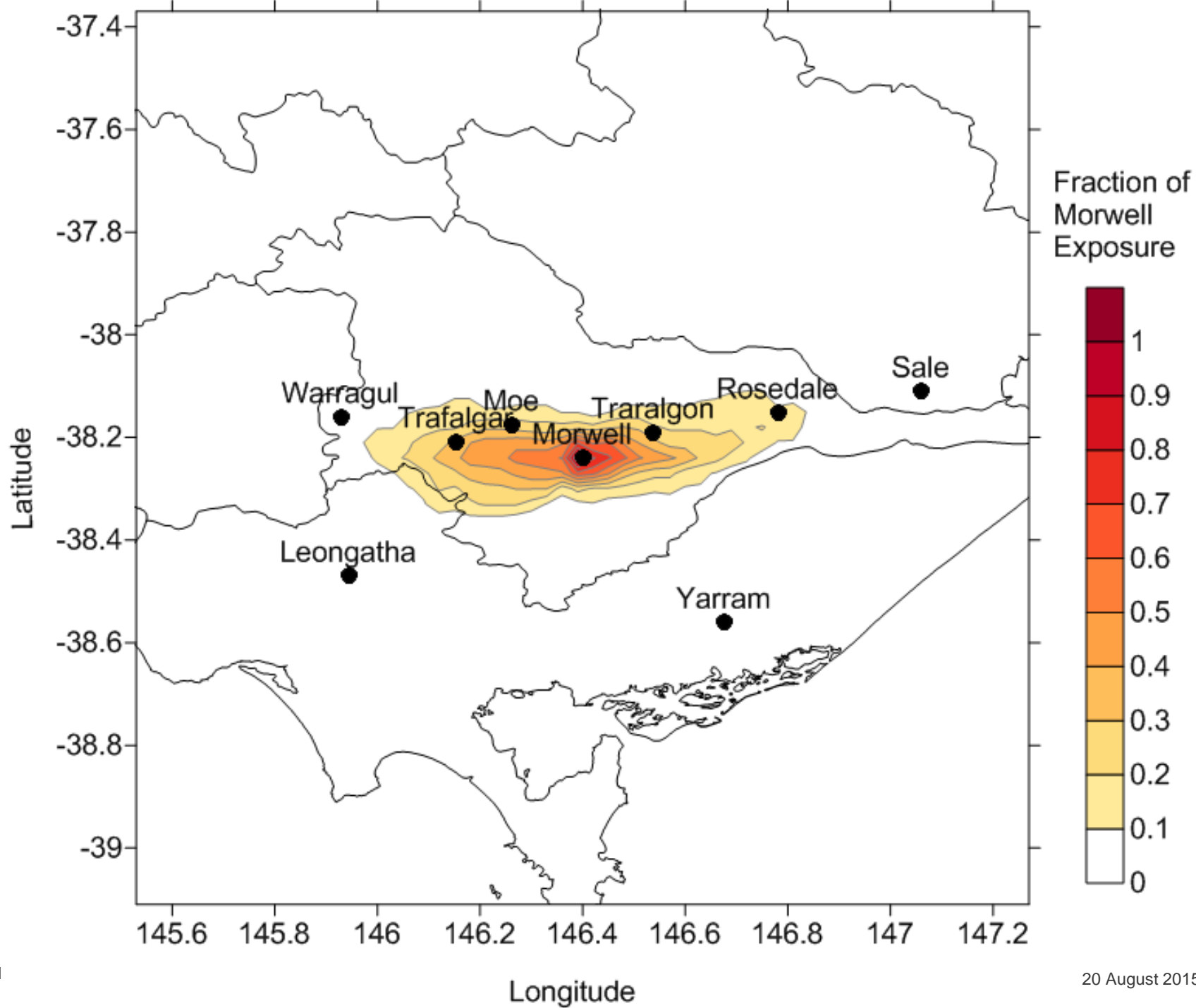
- Rural location
- Lower exposure to the smoke event – based on CSIRO modelling
- Size – large enough to provide the participant numbers needed
- A complementary socio-demographic make up to Morwell

# Many fires were burning in Feb-Mar 2014



Landscape fire in Morwell environs.  
Feb-Mar 2014

MODIS MCD45A1 Collection 5.1 Burnt Area  
NASA SRTM DEM



## 4.1 Why Sale?

There are considerable advantages in selecting Sale as the second community site to participate in the Adult Survey

- Gippsland focus – selecting two communities in relative proximity to each other will give us a better understanding of the health trajectories in the area than we would if we selected communities from completely different regions. This detailed understanding of the region will inform future health policy and practice for Gippsland.
- Recruitment – we are hoping that selecting a community on the periphery of the mine fire event will increase participation rates because of awareness of the event, some level of exposure to the smoke, and interest in supporting other Gippsland communities.
- Logistic – selecting a community that is relatively close to Morwell means that we don't have to establish entirely separate study offices and structures
- Existing relationships – the Monash School of Rural Health has close links with the community and facilities that can be accessed.

## 4.2 Who will be asked to participate?

- We will identify a sample of eligible residents, based on age, location, and other information available from the ABS 2011 census.
- In order to identify community-wide outcomes we need a large sample – so over 5000 people will be selected and sent a letter informing them of the study and inviting them to participate.
- We need as many community members as possible to participate in the study in order to have the power to identify rare health outcomes.

## 4.3 What's in it for the Sale community?

- Following the health of the local community will help us to better understand the health trajectories in the Sale community. This will inform the development of health and social support programs which will benefit the local community.
- Findings from the Hazelwood Health Study are expected to inform future emergency policy and planning – something relevant to any rural community.
- The Hazelwood Health Study is expected to likely to become the framework for other research activities targeting areas of interest directly relevant to the local area – opening up a much wider array of potential outcomes. This includes potential opportunities for local medical and other health students to get involved.

## 4.4 Long term health studies

- Longitudinal studies take information from the same people over time – this allows us to go beyond describing a situation to understanding why and how things occur, including tracking individual health pathways.
- The Hazelwood Health Study will combine responses to surveys with administrative health data collected at multiple time points to track health outcomes over the next 20 years.

*UK Doctors Study – 1<sup>st</sup> study to confirm that smoking leads to increased deaths*

*Million Women Study – identified the link between hormone replacement and breast cancer*

*Busselton study – WA community study looking at a diverse range of health conditions and measures*

*Dubbo Study – looking at predictors of healthy ageing and service use*



## 5. Discussion

Open for general discussion, but we would be interested in your responses to the following:

- What was the local experience of the fire event?
- What concerns do locals have?
- How best to promote the study in Sale?