



## INFORMATION SHEET

### Hazelwood Health Study – Long-Term Respiratory Health

You are invited to take part in the **Long-Term Respiratory Health Survey** of the **Hazelwood Health Study** being led by [Dr Tyler Lane](#) and [Professor Michael Abramson](#) at Monash University. Please read this Information Sheet in full before deciding whether or not to participate.

#### What is the study about?

The **Hazelwood Health Study** has found poorer respiratory (lung) health among those who had the most exposure to the Hazelwood mine fire. Later events like the Black Summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic have likely caused further harm to respiratory health.

Eating a variety of healthy foods may provide some protection against respiratory problems. However, a recent Hazelwood Health Study found that many people in Gippsland do not consume enough fruit, vegetables, or wholegrains.

The aim of the **Hazelwood Health Study – Long-Term Respiratory Health** is to examine long-term respiratory effects of the mine fire, and whether it has been worsened by the Black Summer or COVID-19 or improved by good food.

#### Why were you chosen for this research?

You previously participated in the 2016/2017 **Hazelwood Adult Survey**. With updated information, we can better understand the long-term effects of the mine fire, as well as the impact of other events on your respiratory health.

#### What does participation involve?

An online survey that will take approximately 30-40 minutes. The questions will be about your respiratory symptoms, where you lived during the Black Summer, exposure to COVID-19, the food you eat, and other health-related behaviours such as smoking.

#### Benefits of participation

You will receive a **\$25 e-voucher** valid at a wide range of business across Australia for completing the survey, in addition to a personalised eating report that compares your food intake to the Australian recommendations and tips for improvement.

The community may also benefit from your responses through better understanding about the long-term respiratory health needs of people affected by the mine fire.

#### Risks and inconveniences

You may experience some discomfort when answering questions about the mine fire, COVID, or the Black Summer. If you do experience any distress, we recommend you mention this to your local General Practitioner, or, in an emergency, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. We anticipate no inconvenience beyond your time to complete the survey.

## **Future Investigations**

We may invite you to participate in future surveys to better understand your long-term respiratory health, though you will be under no obligation to participate.

## **Can I withdraw from the study after consenting to take part?**

Participation is voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. You can withdraw your data at any time up until it has been included in statistical analyses.

## **Confidentiality, privacy and data storage**

All of the information gained in the study will remain confidential and only accessible to authorised members of the research team. Your data will be held securely by Monash University for a minimum of five years in adherence with the University's regulations and Privacy Procedures ([www.monash.edu/privacy-monash](http://www.monash.edu/privacy-monash)) and the various provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

All data will be stored in a secure, restricted-access area maintained by Monash University and, for questions about the foods you eat, on a secure AWS server owned the University of Newcastle. The results of the study will be presented as grouped data which means that no individual participants can be identified.

## **How will I be informed of the research results?**

We will present findings through annual community briefings, media notices, and the study website [hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au](http://hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au)

## **Source of funding**

The study is funded by the Department of Health, though it has no role in the collection, analyses and interpretation of participant data, nor in the reporting of results.

## **Enquiries, concerns or complaints**

If you have any questions about participating in this study, please contact the Recruitment Coordinator on freecall **1800 985 899** or by email at [contact@hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au](mailto:contact@hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au)

Alternatively, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Professor Michael Abramson, at:  
Monash University

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

553 St Kilda Rd

Melbourne VIC 3004

Tel: 03 9903 0573

Email: [michael.abramson@monash.edu](mailto:michael.abramson@monash.edu)

If you have complaints about the conduct of the project, please contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC), and quote project number 25680, at the following address:

Executive Officer

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

Room 111, Building 3e

Research Office

Monash University VIC 3800

Tel: +61 3 9905 2052

Email: [muhrec@monash.edu](mailto:muhrec@monash.edu)

Fax: +61 3 9905 3831