

Survey Participant Information and Consent Form

Title of Study: The Impact of Telehealth on the Rural General Practice Workforce

Principal Investigator: Dr Ruth Large

Institution: NZ Telehealth Forum in collaboration with the Dr Kyle Eggleton, University of Auckland

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This research has been assessed and approved by the Aotearoa Research Ethics Committee (AREC25-11). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Manager of AREC, Dr Keely Blanch, on manager@aotearoaresearchethics.org

Introduction: You are invited to participate in a research study being conducted as focus groups at the Rural Health conference 1st May 2025.. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of telehealth on the retention and recruitment of general practitioners (GPs) in rural New Zealand. This study aims to provide guidance on the recommended direction of telehealth in primary care.. The study uses a “nominal group technique” which involves an initial survey and then teasing out of main themes and ideas before voting on the important themes. The principle hypothesis of this study is that “telehealth impacts negatively on the recruitment and retention of rural General Practitioners”.

Procedures: If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

1. Complete an initial survey to share your thoughts on how telehealth has impacted your work using an anonymised electronic survey tool called Qualtrix. Participation in this part of the study will be fully confidential. If the survey is not fully completed the data collected will not be utilised in the study.
2. You will be invited to participate in a focus group discussion to share and discuss ideas with other participants at the Rural Health Conference in May 2025 this will be a facilitated discussion using Mentimeter to enable participants to maintain anonymity of opinion, should they wish to do so. You do not need to take part in this in-person workshop if you do not wish to and may withdraw from the study if you wish, noting that it will not be possible to withdraw the information that you have provided in the survey as this is anonymised. As this part of the study is in-person it will not be possible to provide full confidentiality. The workshop will however be using Mentimeter and this tool enables electronic submission of ideas in an anonymised way.
3. Vote on the most significant ideas and impacts of telehealth on healthcare workers.

Duration: The initial survey should take no longer than a half hour and the workshop is 90 minutes.

Risks and Benefits: *There may be some risk of distress when recounting your experiences. EAP services are available through the RNZCGP via [Membership benefits | RNZCGP](#)*

Your participation will contribute to a better understanding of the impact of telehealth on rural general practice and may help improve telehealth services in New Zealand.

Confidentiality: Your privacy is important to us. All information collected during this study will be kept confidential and will only be used for research purposes. Data will be stored securely and only accessible to the research team. Your identity will not be disclosed in any reports or publications resulting from this study. Mentimeter and Qualtrix do NOT identify participants, all of the information is stored securely in a AWS server in Australia, you are not required to provide any personal contact information to use these tools. Demographics will be asked within the question sets, you can choose to not answer those questions.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. If you choose to withdraw, data collected up until the point of withdrawal will not be able to be destroyed. If an initial survey is not completed however the information in the uncompleted survey will not be used.

Contact Information: If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Ruth 021762923

Consent: (Note that by checking the consent box in the Qualtrix survey consent is considered to be given. When attending the in -person workshop, by signing below, you indicate that you have read and understood the information provided above, and you agree to participate in this study.

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate your consent:

- I have read and understood the information provided about this research project.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw at any time without giving a reason.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- If I decide to withdraw from the study, I agree that the information collected about me up to the point when I withdraw may continue to be processed.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- I understand my responsibilities as a study participant.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- I understand that I am asked to keep the identity of fellow focus group members confidential
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- I understand that no material, which could identify me personally, will be used in any reports on this study..

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- I agree to participate in this research project.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

Participant's Name: _

Participant's Signature: _

Date: _

