

May 2020

Participant Information Sheet

Your participation in this 6-month pilot project is welcome. It has been designed with the overall aim of protecting the mental health of paramedics at Ambulance Victoria. A previously unconsidered aspect of psychological support is the potential role of chaplains. To address this, chaplains have been assigned to travel to incidents after which you will be asked to complete online mental health questionnaires. This is likely to occur several times during the six months. At the start of the pilot, however, you will be e-mailed a link to a portal that will assess your current mental health status and send the results directly to your Inbox. It will contain scores, risk-level and links to further information and support. This will be repeated at the end to allow a comparison over the course of the pilot.

STAGE-28 is a company specialising in emergency services training and research around the world. To gain the confidence of people like you, who actually do the work, your responses will be stored on highly encrypted servers belonging to STAGE-28. This security will ensure that no member of Ambulance Victoria or other organisation will be able to identify you. An e-mail address is necessary to send results back to you and to alert you to any concern your scores might imply. At the end of the project all identifying information will be removed leaving only the scores and demographic information (e.g., age, sex, length of service) gathered by all participating paramedics for analysis. This analysis will form the basis of a report for Ambulance Victoria.

While it is hoped this assurance encourages you to take part you are entitled to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you do wish to withdraw either contact Stuart Stuart at Ambulance Victoria Stuart.Stuart@ambulance.vic.gov.au, or Dr John Durkin at STAGE-28 john@stage-28.com. If your data has not been processed it will be traced and deleted. If it has been processed your identification and participation record will be deleted.

No harm is anticipated from taking part as you will be continuing to perform your role without interference. Your contribution is merely from completing the questionnaires on the portal upon request, and each should take only a few minutes. If you do have concerns please raise them with Stuart or John (e-mail addresses above). More information is available via a link at the foot of the e-mail you will receive at the start of the project.



Dr John Durkin