

## **Agreeing to Participate in Research – a Guide**

The questions below are designed to assist people in their decision to participate as subjects in a research project. These questions are modelled on the publication *Keeping Research on Track: a guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about health research ethics*. If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander please refer to this publication at

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/e65>

The purpose of the questions is to highlight some of things that need to be considered prior to agreeing to participate. Some considerations may be important for you and some may not, depending on the nature of the research and what you are required to do. Also many of the questions will be answered in the information provided to you about the research.

### **Project management**

- What is the title of the research?
- What is the aim of the research?
- What are the key questions being posed?
- Who comprise the research team?
- What is their experience, qualifications and expertise?
- What organisation(s) are they from?
- Are there any students involved? If so, who is the supervisor?
- Is there a steering committee or advisory committee overseeing the research?
- If so who is on this committee?
- Has the project received Human Research Ethics approval?
- Is the research being funded? By whom?
- Is there a contact person other than the researcher(s) to whom I can ask questions and/or raise issues?

### **Participation**

- Why am I being approached to be a participant?
- Do I have time to think about it?
- When will the research start? Is this negotiable?
- Who will benefit from the research?
- What am I (we) getting out of the research?
- Will there be any practical outcomes?
- What other people or organisations have been approached to participate in the research?
- Are there different types of participant?
- Do all participants undertake the same activities?
- Will the research require me to interact with other participants?
- How many people are involved as participants?

- What will I be required to do or have done to me as a research participant?
- Will I be asked to provide any sensitive and/or personal information?
- How long will it take for me to participate?
- Are there any risks for me or my organisation?
- How are any identified risks being managed?

### **Relationships, feedback and consent**

- Will I receive any payment or compensation for my participation?
- If I agree to participate, can I withdraw without any adverse consequences?
- How do I withdraw?
- Can I decline to participate in some activities without withdrawing from the research (eg. decline to answer some questions)?
- Will I receive any feedback about the results or my personal data?
- If an interview is being used will I see the final transcript and/or the research team's interpretation?
- What happens if I (we) disagree with the transcript or its interpretation by the research team?
- Will I have the opportunity to comment on any report being produced?
- Does the Participant Information Form explain clearly the research process and the nature of my involvement?
- How is my consent being obtained?

### **Privacy**

- Who will have access to my data?
- Is my name linked to my data?
- How will my data be analysed?
- Is my data treated confidentially?
- Will my data be used in a future project?
- How will my data be stored? Will it be destroyed at some point?
- How will the results be distributed (e.g. thesis, report, journal article, conference paper) and could I possibly be identified from any publication?