



Professor Stephen A. Webb  
Chief Investigator  
**Research Institute for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing**  
University of Newcastle  
Callaghan, NSW  
02 49216630  
Stephen.webb@newcastle.edu.au

**Information Statement for the Research Project:**

**Implementing Evidence-Based Practice: Factors that Influence the Use of Research Evidence by Human Service – Australian Research Council Discovery Project**

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You are invited to participate in the research project identified above which is being conducted by Professor Stephen Webb, Professor Mel Gray, Dr Debbie Plath and Dr Elyssa Joy from the Research Institute for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing at the University of Newcastle. The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) has kindly agreed to assist in this study by distributing this information to you.

**Why is the research being done?**

The purpose of the research is to investigate the barriers to implementing evidence-based practice in the human services in Australia. Implementing research evidence in human services is vitally important in providing more effective and accountable provision. Nationally, it is significant in three key respects: (1) it is the first Australian research project to examine the implementation of research evidence in the human services; (2) it is the first project to conduct a systematic review in this field; (3) it develops a national policy framework for guiding implementation and identifying attainment outcomes in human services. A multifaceted strategy for policy formation based on audit and feedback will be proposed.

**Who can participate in the research?**

We are seeking professionally qualified social workers and case managers who are members of AASW to participate in this research.

**What choice do you have?**

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Only those people who give their informed consent will be included in the project. Whether or not you decide to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you.

**What would you be asked to do?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete an online survey. Variations of this survey have been completed by general practitioners, nurses and other health care workers. In addition to requesting some demographic information it asks questions about evidence-based practice (EBP), such as: attitudes to EBP; literature searching and finding evidence; appraising research literature and evidence; and understanding of technical terms.

The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

In addition to the survey we are asking some social workers to consent to an in-depth telephone interview regarding the experience of EBP. The interview will take approximately 30-40minutes and will be arranged at a time and place that is convenient for the social worker. Interviews will be recorded and then transcribed for analysis. The transcription will not identify you. Participants will be able to obtain a copy of the transcript to review, edit or erase their part in the interview if desired. They also have the option to withdraw their data completely.

### **What are the risks and benefits of participating?**

There will be no benefit to you in participating in this research. However, the social work professional will benefit from your participation by guiding implementation and identify attainment outcomes in human services for an evidence-based programme. The research will develop a multifaceted strategy for policy formation based on audit and feedback.

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

We will not know your name or other identifying information as the AASW will distribute the survey link. All of the data we collect from you will be treated in a confidential manner. Raw data will initially be stored online in a password protected server which encrypts all surveys for additional security. Only approved investigators will have access. The raw data will be transferred and retained for at least 5 years at the Research Institute for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing at the University of Newcastle. The data will be entered into a database for analysis and will be stored on a password protected file. All of the data that is collected for the study will be analysed and reported in summary form.

### **How will the information collected be used?**

The data generated by the research will be reported to the Australian Research Council, will be presented at international conferences and submitted for publication to social work and social science related journals. A brief report will also be provided to the AASW in the form of a newsletter. Participants also have the option to obtain a summary of the results from the researchers.

Individual participants will not be identified in any reports or publications arising from the project.

### **What do you need to do to participate?**

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, contact the researcher.

If you would like to participate, please complete the electronic survey and submit it. Once you submit the survey, your response cannot be returned or excluded from the analysis, as it cannot be singled out from the anonymous surveys. To commence the survey use the link below to take you to the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RG7GQJQ>

The survey is expected to run until August 31st 2010.

Participants can express their interest in participating in an interview by contacting the Project Manager, Elyssa Joy, on 02 49215223. Alternatively they may complete the attached consent form and email to Elyssa Joy on [elyssa.joy@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:elyssa.joy@newcastle.edu.au) or fax: 02 4921 7818.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information please contact Professor Stephen A. Webb, Chief Investigator, at the Research Institute for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing, University of Newcastle, Callaghan, at the address given above.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Professor Stephen Webb  
Date 6-5-10  
Chief Investigator  
University of Newcastle

**Complaints about this research**

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2008-0411.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research Office, The Chancellery, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia. Telephone (02) 49216333, email [Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au).

You may also contact the AASW National Office, PO Box 4956, Kingston ACT 2604. Telephone (02) 62707211, Fax (02) 62735020, email: [maiya@aasw.asn.au](mailto:maiya@aasw.asn.au)