



## Information sheet

### SEER: an online survey about how you view and use research in your work

#### What is SEER?

SEER is an online survey for all agency staff who are involved in policy development or program management. It asks about:

- How you did (or didn't) use research in recent policy or program development processes
- Your views of and confidence in using research
- Your organisation's support for using research in policy and program work

We are using SEER as one of the ways of measuring the use of research in policy and program development. We will summarise and feedback de-identified findings from SEER to agencies participating in SPIRIT.

#### How does SEER relate to SPIRIT?

SEER is one of the three outcomes measurement tools used in the SPIRIT study. The purpose of SPIRIT is to see if a program of capacity-building activities and resources is able to support health agencies to use research more effectively in policy and program development. SPIRIT comprises the Research for Policy program (R4P), three outcome measurement tools (SEER, ORACLE and SAGE), use of a knowledge exchange portal (Web CIPHER), plus a process evaluation and cost analysis.

#### What does participation involve?

We are asking if you would complete the online SEER survey. It takes approximately 20 minutes. We hope that you will complete this survey again at subsequent measurement points (every 6 months over the next 30 months - a total of six times), but we will be in touch with you at each time point to ask if you would like to participate. Completing the survey this time in no way commits you to completing it in the future.

#### Will the study benefit me?

This online survey is just one part of SPIRIT. As a participant in SPIRIT you will be given access to a range of tailored capacity development activities, services and resources within the Research for Policy program (R4P). You will also be given access to the Web CIPHER knowledge exchange portal.

SPIRIT will also benefit your agency which will receive a summary of how it currently uses research and free-of-charge participation in R4P at an estimated value of \$70,000.

#### Will the study involve any risks?

No. We do not anticipate any risks or discomfort for you.

#### How will the information be used?

Information gained during the study will be fed back to participating agencies, but this will be in an aggregated de-identified form that protects the identity of individual participants. Summaries of the

results may be published in journal articles or conference papers reporting on the development of the tools and strategies, but neither individuals nor their agency will be identifiable.

The researchers will use data from SEER to identify a sample of people who they will invite to participate in an in-depth interview. If invited, there is no obligation to accept.

Only the researchers will have access to information on participants. The data will be stored securely for 7 years after completion of the project and then disposed of.

### **How do I give consent to participate?**

When we send the invitation to SEER we ask that you reply to the email saying that you consent to SEER, OR that you do not consent to participate in this measurement period, OR that you do not consent to participate at any time in the future. If you consent to participate we will send you a participant identification number and the link to SEER. If you do not consent in this measurement period we will not send any further information about SEER now but, in 6 months time, we will send an email asking if you would like to participate. If you do not consent to participate at any time in the future we will not contact you again about completing SEER.

### **Who is running SPIRIT?**

SPIRIT is being coordinated by the Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research (CIPHER), a Centre of Research Excellence funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. CIPHER is a collaboration of nine Australian and international universities and policy makers led by Professor Sally Redman. The University of Western Sydney is the administering institution.

CIPHER is funded through a grant from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council from 15 October 2010, application number APP1001436.

### **Can I withdraw from the study?**

Participation is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to be involved and, if you do participate, you can withdraw at any time without giving any reason and without any consequences. Your decision to withdraw will not be disclosed to anyone in your agency.

### **Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are free to tell other people about the study. You and they are welcome to contact the chief investigator to discuss the research project.

### **What if I require further information?**

If you would like to know more at any stage, please contact the SPIRIT Project Officer at the Sax Institute on (02) 9514 9243 or [SPIRIT@saxinstitute.org.au](mailto:SPIRIT@saxinstitute.org.au).

### **What if I have a complaint?**

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H9870. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 Fax +61 2 4736 0013 or email [humanethics@uws.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uws.edu.au). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.