

## INFORMATION SHEET

### WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?

A team of health care researchers led by Professor Jon Adams and Professor David Sibbritt at the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM), University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are leading and conducting this project with the financial support of the Chiropractors' Association of Australia (CAA). The ACORN project team are independent researchers leading and conducting this rigorous, scientific investigation into chiropractic care in Australia.

### WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

The ACORN project will examine a wide range of clinical and practice areas within chiropractic care. A major aim of the ACORN project is to facilitate a closer relationship between research and practice and to ensure chiropractic research reflects the perspectives, experiences and outcomes important to chiropractors and their patients in daily practice.

The ACORN project is a national project which is focused upon collecting valuable information from as many registered chiropractors across Australia as possible – all registered chiropractors are invited to participate. As such, this is your chance to lend a hand by participating, learning and sharing in the outcomes that will help build a stronger Australian Chiropractic.

The ACORN project includes 1) a national survey of *all* registered chiropractors (please see questionnaire attached or via online [www.acorn-arccim.com](http://www.acorn-arccim.com)) and 2) the establishment of a national chiropractor database (please see consent form attached or via on-line [www.acorn-arccim.com](http://www.acorn-arccim.com)) to recruit for forthcoming sub-studies which will examine specific clinical and practice issues in more depth.

Note: the ACORN project is **NOT** an audit of your practice and all of the information collected will only be available to the ACORN researchers at UTS for research purposes.

### HOW WILL THE ACORN PROJECT FINDINGS BENEFIT CHIROPRACTORS AND THE CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION?

The ACORN project provides an opportunity for you to readily contribute to the evidence base of chiropractic care, help further inform your clinical procedures and help provide a greater benefit to the community you serve.

The findings from the ACORN project may help you identify how your practice profile compares to that of other chiropractors across the wider profession. The ACORN project is the first *national-scale* practice-based chiropractic project of its type in the world and will provide a sustainable resource for further chiropractic research to help inform patient care and chiropractors across Australia.

**The ACORN project has been assessed and approved for formal learning hours. The allocation of CPD hours is subject to an individual's level and amount of engagement.**

### HOW WILL I BE INFORMED ABOUT THE ACORN PROJECT NEWS/FINDINGS?

Updates and findings from the ACORN project will be made readily available on the ACORN website ([www.acorn-arccim.com](http://www.acorn-arccim.com)). Findings from the ACORN project will also be disseminated via peer-reviewed journal publications and a number of these will be open-access (free access to all via the internet).

## IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?

There are two ways you can participate. The first way is to complete and submit the questionnaire (6-8 minutes completion time). You have the option to complete the questionnaire via either hard copy (please see attached) or via online (please go to ACORN website [www.acorn-arccim.com](http://www.acorn-arccim.com)).

The second way you can participate is to **also** complete and return the consent form (either hard copy attached or online [www.acorn-arccim.com](http://www.acorn-arccim.com)) to participate in the national chiropractic database and be considered for future sub-study recruitment. This initial consent does not commit you to ongoing involvement – you will still have the option to participate or not participate in any latter research sub-studies on a sub-study by sub-study basis. You can change your mind at any time and you do not have to say why.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?

While we do not anticipate any problems, if you do become upset by any of the questions you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on 02 9514 9772 who will provide a contact for the university counselling service.

## WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?

You have been chosen as a current practising and registered chiropractor within Australia. Therefore, you are able to provide the vital information that we need to address research questions that include safety, effectiveness, patient experiences and patient values as well as establish the national chiropractor database.

## DO I HAVE TO SAY YES?

You do not have to say yes. Completing the attached questionnaire or agreeing to consent to future research projects is entirely elective.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?

Nothing. We will possibly forward one more reminder (either online or via hard copy) to provide one more opportunity to participate. However, if you do not wish to complete the questionnaire and/or consent to participate in the national chiropractor database you will not be obliged to do anything else. We thank you for your time in considering this invitation.

## IF I SAY YES, CAN I CHANGE MY MIND LATER?

Yes. You can change your mind at any time and you do not have to say why. We will thank you for your time so far and we will not contact you about this research again.

## WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research that you think I can help you with, please feel free to contact me on email ([jon.adams@uts.edu.au](mailto:jon.adams@uts.edu.au)) or phone 02 9514 4821.

If you would like to talk to someone about an ethical concern who is not connected with the research, you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on 02 9514 9772, and quote this number 2014000027. **(UTS Ethics approval #2014000027).**