

## National Audit of Early Pregnancy Assessment Services Clinics – Participant information sheet and consent form

Title	National Audit of Early Pregnancy Assessment Services Clinics
Bellberry Ethics ID Number	2025-01-088
Project Sponsor	Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
Principal Investigator	Simone Cheung, Deloitte

### Introduction

This document tells you about the project and describes what will happen if you take part. If there is anything you don't understand or want to know more about, please ask.

Deloitte has been engaged by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to undertake a national audit of early pregnancy assessment services (EPAS) as defined in the box below.

### What are early pregnancy assessment services (EPAS)?

EPAS are defined as care provided to people who are early stages of their pregnancy (from conception to 14 weeks, although some clinics provide care to people in their second trimester). People can access EPAS at an outpatient clinic (EPAS clinics) or other alternative health settings such as through midwives in antenatal wards and/or GP obstetricians.

The purpose of the project is to obtain a better understanding of how EPAS providers in Australia operate. This project aims to:

- Inform the development of strategies and programs that may improve care and outcomes for clients accessing EPAS and for women who have experienced a miscarriage.
- Encourage EPAS clinic operators to register on the National Health Service Directory and Provider Connect Australia. This will enable other health professionals to refer clients to EPAS clinics and ensure the general public can access information on these services. Provider Connect Australia registration will help EPAS clinic operators to ensure their information is consistently maintained and up to date.

### Participant information

#### Why have you been asked to participate in this survey?

We would like to invite your service to participate in this survey if it delivers early pregnancy care. Early pregnancy care is provided in clinics, maternity, obstetrics and antenatal units, GPs, and emergency departments.

Deloitte has been engaged by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to obtain a better understanding on how this care is delivered in Australia. This will inform the development of strategies and programs that may improve care and outcomes for clients accessing early pregnancy care.

The survey will be focused on the early pregnancy assessment services your service delivers.

#### Do I have to take part?

If your service does not wish to complete the survey, you do not have to. If you start the survey and then change your mind, you are free to exit at any stage. Your choice will not affect your provider's relationship with government services, non-government organisations or with Deloitte. If you choose to withdraw from the study at any point in time before data has been analysed, your answers will not be included. All findings will be presented at an aggregate level i.e., they will not be attributed to individual services.

#### What information will be collected and how will it be stored?

Your responses will not be personally identifiable and will not be linked to your service.

All information you provide will be kept private. Any data collected from this survey will be stored on secure Deloitte servers only accessible by Deloitte employees conducting this audit. This raw data will not be shared with any government or third parties.

#### Storage of data

Your data will be private and only used for this research. The information you provide will be deleted at the end of this project. The research that your information will be a part of will be appropriately filed, stored securely, and deleted in seven years under Deloitte's Record Keeping Policy. It will not be used for any purpose outside of this audit.

For further information, please refer to Deloitte's Privacy Policy to understand how this data will be collected and stored. Deloitte's Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).

Please note that once the survey has begun your response will be recorded regardless of whether you exit the survey. You may exit from the survey at any stage by simply closing the survey webpage.

If you wish to withdraw your response and decide that you do not want your data to be included in this research study, you may let us know by emailing [epasaudit2025@deloitte.com.au](mailto:epasaudit2025@deloitte.com.au). You will have until 9 June 2025 to do so. After this date, it will not be possible to remove your data because the data analysis will have been completed.

### **Participation risks**

There are no physical, legal or economic risks associated with participation in this study.

While your data will be kept and stored on secure Deloitte networks and will only be accessible by research team members from Deloitte, in alignment with the National Statement of Ethical Conduct 2023, it is acknowledged that there is a potential risk of breach of privacy associated with the unauthorised release of personal information. It is also acknowledged that, while small, there is a risk that any information you share may be identifiable.

### **Human Research Ethics Committee approval statement**

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2023\)](#). This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the Complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Operations Manager, Bellberry Limited on 08 8361 3222.

### **Questions and support**

If you require support, modification to participate, or have questions about the audit, please contact the Deloitte team through [EPASaudit2025@deloitte.com.au](mailto:EPASaudit2025@deloitte.com.au).