

Supplementary text 1: Semi-structured interview guide

My name is [researcher] and I am from East Grampians Health Service.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as a part of this research into rural research placements.

The aim of this research is to gain insight on the required infrastructure and resources to implement research placements in rural health services, as well as identify barriers and facilitators and benefits and burdens of hosting student researchers.

I have some semi-structured interview questions prepared that we'll work through.

The interview will be audio-recorded unless you advise me that you do not wish to have it recorded. You may request a copy of the recording.

If you wish to have a break at any time, please let me know.

Do you have any questions or concerns about what I've just explained?

Did you have any questions or concerns about the information in the Participant Information and Consent Sheet?

Do you consent to proceed with the interview?

Do you consent to have the interview audio/video-recorded?

Background information:

A) Please start by telling me a bit about your experience in rural health.

(If needed, prompt:)

- i. What's your educational background?
- ii. What proportion of your career has been in a rural or urban area?
- lii What types of rural organisations have you worked in?

Core questions [*NPT component the question relates to is in brackets*]:

1. Have you experience with hosting student research placements (currently or previously), e.g., public health students, biostats students?

If yes:

2. What motivated the organisation and/or team to host student researchers?

[*Coherence, cognitive participation*]

3. Have any factors facilitated and/or impeded the capacity to host research students? If so, can you provide examples? [*Coherence, cognitive participation, collective action*]
4. What resources were allocated (currently or previously) to support student researchers? [*Collective action*]
5. What particular systems were set up around these placements, e.g., ongoing partnerships to recruit students, arrangements for student accommodations, dedicated role for student support, etc.? [*Collective action*]
6. Can you provide examples of student projects / research questions answered? [*Coherence*]
7. What has worked well and what hasn't worked well? [*Reflexive monitoring*]
8. Overall, what have been some of the main benefits and "burdens" of hosting student researchers? [*Reflexive monitoring*]

If no:

2. What are the main reasons for not hosting student researchers? [*Coherence, cognitive participation, collective action*]
3. What would make organisations more likely to host student researchers? [*Coherence, cognitive participation, collective action*]
4. What do you think might be some of the main benefits and burdens of hosting student researchers? [*Reflexive monitoring*]

Thank you for your time today and sharing your experiences. I am conducting a number of interviews and will analyse the responses provided to determine the key themes across all interviews. You will be sent a draft summary of our findings and encouraged to provide feedback. This research may be published in due course (de-identified). I will keep you informed of progress. Again, thank you for your involvement.