# Participant Information Sheet
# Q-Sort Survey

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| Project Title: | A mixed methods study to determine and prioritise core components of a post-sepsis model of care for the Australian healthcare setting |
| Short title: | Sepsis Support Mixed Methods Study – **Q-Sort Survey** |
| HREC Number: | HREC/2026/QCHQ/126779 |
| Principal Investigators: | Professor Debbie Long and A/Professor Naomi Hammond |
| Version Number: | 1.1 |

## Background

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that can lead to long-term physical, emotional, and social challenges for survivors and families. Follow-up care after sepsis in Australia is inconsistent and often not well coordinated.

This study is part of the SEPSIS SUPPORT Research Program and aims to improve post-sepsis care across the Australian healthcare system.

It is funded by:

- NHMRC Partnership Project
- NHMRC Collaborations in Health Service Research

The research team includes investigators from:

- The George Institute for Global Health
- Queensland University of Technology
- Sepsis Australia
- Clinical Excellence Queensland
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in HealthCare
- Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service

## Objectives

The study aims to understand what people affected by sepsis believe is most important in follow-up care. Using Q-methodology, participants will sort statements about follow-up care to identify key priorities. This is the first step to guide the development of a model of care aligned with the National Sepsis Clinical Care Standard, Quality Statement 7.

## Methods

This study uses Q methodology, where participants complete an online Q sort survey, ranking statements from least to most important. Some participants may also be invited to an optional online focus group.

## Sample

Participants include sepsis survivors, family members, bereaved relatives, clinicians, policymakers, health service leaders, and those involved in sepsis-related advocacy or support.

## Data Collection

Part 1 involves a 30–45 minute online Q sort survey using a structured grid of statements. Part 2, for those who opt in, may involve an online focus group. For Part 1, data will be collected through the online Q Methods Software. Data will be temporarily hosted on secure servers based in Canada. Once data collection is complete, data will be removed entirely from the Canadian servers and stored securely on the research team's institutional servers.

**Type of Information Collected**

There will be some demographic questions collected to ensure appropriate representation across different stakeholder groups. Information collected includes participants' ranking of statements, optional written comments, and, if provided, contact details for focus group invitations. Contact details are stored separately and not linked to survey responses.

**Data Analysis and Management**

Responses will be analysed to identify shared viewpoints and priorities. Data will be stored securely on institutional, password-protected servers for 15 years. Only grouped, de-identified data will be used in publications and reports.

**Outcomes**

Findings will inform national models of post-sepsis follow-up care, support policy and service planning, and guide future stages of the SEPSIS SUPPORT Program. A summary of results will be shared with participants.

**Ethics Approval and Considerations**

The study has been approved by the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service HREC. Participation is voluntary, but we request that participants complete all rounds of the survey.

**Contact**

Please contact the Sepsis Support team SepsisSupportStudy@georgeinstittue.org.au if you have any concerns or require further information about this survey.

**On behalf of**

Prof Debbie Long and A/Prof Naomi Hammond