

<DATE SENT TO PARENT/GUARDIAN>

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**This letter includes important information regarding a research project taking place at your child's school. Your child will be involved in this research, unless you take one of the actions described below.**

In the coming months, your student at <ENTER SCHOOL NAME HERE> will be asked to complete a number of short surveys during school hours to help improve beach safety education for high school aged students. The surveys are part of the Australian Beach Safety Education Evaluation Project (ABSEEP) led by researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). In short, the surveys will ask about your child's knowledge of beach hazards, their opinions on a variety of safety related behaviours, and their own decisions and actions when they are at the beach. The surveys will use your student's school ID number, which is not identifiable to the research team.

Please read the full Participant Information Statement, which contains more details about this research project, attached to this letter. The Information Statement can also be downloaded and read at:

[www.beachsafetyresearch.com/participant-info](http://www.beachsafetyresearch.com/participant-info)

Parent/Guardian Consent for Survey Participation

After reviewing the Participation Information Statement and Consent Form below:

If you **give consent** for your student to complete the beach safety surveys, no further action is required.

If you **do not give consent** to your student completing surveys for this research, they do not have to. You may exempt your student by completing one of the following actions below. You may complete the opt out procedures at any time, that is, if you decide at a later date that you do not want your child to participate, you may. If you do not complete one of the opt out actions, your child will complete the surveys at school and their responses will be used in the research in a non-identifiable way.

Opt out procedures to exempt student's from participating in survey (only complete one):

1. Return this form with the bottom portion completed as directed below.
2. Send an email to [info@beachsafetyresearch.com](mailto:info@beachsafetyresearch.com) indicating that you would not like your student to participate in this research. Be sure to include the name of your child's school, and your child's student ID number.
3. Visit <https://www.beachsafetyresearch.com/participant-info> and complete the "Exempt my Child" form under "Beach Safety School Program Evaluation" section.

Should you have any questions regarding this beach safety research project, you may contact the following school representative or member of the research team from UNSW.

School contact	
<b>Name</b>	<School Contact>
<b>Position</b>	<School Contact>
<b>Telephone</b>	<School Contact>
<b>Email</b>	<School Contact>

Research Team Contact	
<b>Name</b>	Dr. Amy Peden
<b>Position</b>	Professor
<b>Telephone</b>	2-9385-2899
<b>Email</b>	a.peden@unsw.edu.au

**Student exemption from beach safety surveys**

Please scan and return this form via email to <School contact email here>, or deliver a signed hard copy to <School contact here> at <School address here>.

I do not consent to my child's participation in the beach safety surveys.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



UNSW Beach Safety  
Research Group



UNSW  
SYDNEY

**PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM**

*Student Beach Safety Presentation Evaluation Survey*

*Australian Beach Safety Education Evaluation Project*

*Chief Investigator: Dr. Amy Peden ; Co-Investigators: Professor Robert Brander, Dr. Dennis Alonzo*

**1. What is the research study about?**

Your child is invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to improve understanding of Australian high school students' opinions on beach safety, and to evaluate if beach safety education presentations are effective in improving students' knowledge and attitudes towards being safe at the beach.

Each year, thousands of people are rescued, become injured or are involved in a fatal or non-fatal drowning event at Australian beaches. Preventing these beach related tragedies is a prime concern to government and beach safety practitioners at all levels. Specifically, high school aged students (11-18) are a priority group for education efforts that seek to improve knowledge and motivate safe beach behaviour. Each year, lifeguards and lifesavers present beach safety information, typically in the form of presentations, to tens of thousands of Australian students in schools. However, evaluation of school-based beach safety education programs is limited, and no evaluation of beach safety education exists for programs prioritising high school students (ages 11-18), a group with twice as many beach-related fatalities as younger children.

This study aims to determine the efficacy and effectiveness of school-based beach safety education. Historically, these programs have played a central role in approaches to preventing beach drowning and injury, however, no research has considered return on investment and if viable, the optimal messages, design, methods and ages for these education initiatives. Outcomes of this study will guide future best practice in Australia, as well as inform beach safety education efforts internationally.

**2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr. Amy Peden (Chief Investigator), University of New South Wales, School of Population Health
  - Working with Children Number: WWC2260478E (Expiration 27/02/2026)
- Professor Robert Brander (Co-Investigator), University of New South Wales, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
  - Working with Children Number: WWC1454816E (Expiration 6/09/2022)
- Dr. Dennis Alonzo (Co-Investigator), University of New South Wales, School of Education
  - Working with Children Number: WWC1484566E (Expiration 26/09/2022)
- Mr. William Koon (PhD Student Investigator), University of New South Wales, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
  - Working with Children Number: WWC2255773V (Expiration 22/02/2026)

You or your child can read more about these researchers at: <https://www.beachsafetyresearch.com/our-team>

**Research Funder:** This research is being funded by the University of New South Wales and the Lake Macquarie City Council.

**3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to allow your child to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that your child is eligible to take part. The research study is looking to include students who meet the following criteria:

1. 11 years of age or older (Year 7 and above)
2. Student enrolled and attending an Australian school

Children who meet the following criteria will be excluded from the study:

1. Under the age of 11 or in Year 6 or below.



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**4. Do I have to allow my child to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you or your child do not want to take part, you/they do not have to. If you/your child agree to take part and later change your/thier mind, you/they are free to withdraw from the study at any stage by completing one of the opt out procedures described.

If you /your child decide to take part in the research study, no further action is required, but you are asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary, contact information in Section 10);
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

**5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?**

If you/your child agree to participate, your child may be asked to complete the following research procedures.

**Surveys:** Online or paper surveys asking your child to answer questions about their knowledge of beach hazards, their opinions on a variety of safety related behaviours, and their own decisions and actions when they are at the beach. Your child will be asked to complete four surveys between July 2021 and February 2022. Each survey will take under 10 minutes to complete, and your child will complete the survey on school grounds during school hours in the presence of an educator.

**Psychological Distress:** Although very unlikely, your child may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting (should they recall a discomfoting event they experienced at the beach). If they do not wish to answer a question, they may skip it and/or stop at any time. The surveys will be conducted in the presence of an educator from your child's school, who will be able to direct your child to the appropriate school resources if necessary.

**6. What will happen to information about me?**

By consenting to this research and not completing on of the opt out actions, you consent to the research team collecting and using information from your child's survey responses for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you or your child for this research project for a minimum of 5 years after the publication of the research results. The information about you or your child will be stored in a non-identifiable format where your, or your child's identify, will be unknown. Information collected in an electronic format will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators.

Information collected using paper-based measures will be stored in Room 323, Level 3, of the Samuels Building on the UNSW Kensington Campus and only the approved research investigators will have access to this information.

The information you or your child provides is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

**7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?**

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will or will not identify you or your child.

If you or your child would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by sending an email to [info@beachsafetyresearch.com](mailto:info@beachsafetyresearch.com). We will only use these details to send you the results of the research.



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**8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?**

If you do consent for your child to participate, you or your child may withdraw at any time. You can withdraw from the study at any point by completing any of the opt out procedures described at the beginning of this document. These include:

- Completing and returning the bottom portion of the page one ('Student exemption from beach safety surveys')
- Sending an email to [info@beachsafetyresearch.com](mailto:info@beachsafetyresearch.com) with your child's school name and their student ID#
- Completing the 'Exempt my Child' Form at <https://www.beachsafetyresearch.com/participant-info> under "Beach Safety School Program Evaluation" section.
- Completing the 'Form of Withdrawal of Participation' on the last page of this document, and sending to Dr. Amy Peden via email ([apeden@unsw.edu.au](mailto:apeden@unsw.edu.au)) or post (School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney, 2052 NSW)
- You may also contact the research team and tell them you no longer wish to participate.

Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney or your child's school. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. No identifiable information about you or your child will be collected at any point of this research project.

**9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?**

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

**Complaints Contact**

<b>Position</b>	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au">humanethics@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	HC210153

**10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?**

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement, or your child's involvement, in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

**Chief Investigator Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	Amy Peden
<b>Position</b>	Senior Lecturer, School of Population Health
<b>Telephone</b>	02 9385 2132
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:a.peden@unsw.edu.au">a.peden@unsw.edu.au</a>

**Research Team Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Robert Brander	Professor, School of Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES)	<a href="mailto:rbrander@unsw.edu.au">rbrander@unsw.edu.au</a>
Dennis Alonzo	Lecturer, School of Education	<a href="mailto:d.alonzo@unsw.edu.au">d.alonzo@unsw.edu.au</a>
William Koon	PhD Candidate, School of BEES	<a href="mailto:w.koon@unsw.edu.au">w.koon@unsw.edu.au</a>



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## **Consent Form – Passive consent for child to participate in research**

### **Declaration by the participant**

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent for my child to participate in this research study;
- I understand that I am providing my consent by not completing one of the opt out actions described in this document;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- I provide my consent for the information collected about my child to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- I understand that the results of the research will be made available on the UNSW Beach Safety Research Group website.



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## Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent for my child to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect mine or my child's relationship with The University of New South Wales, my child's school, or the Lake Macquarie City Council.

- I am withdrawing my child's consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me or my child which I have provided for the purpose of this research study to be withdrawn.
- I am withdrawing my child's to participate in further components of this research and provide my permission for the research team to retain and/or use information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research.
- I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

### Participant Info

School	
Student ID Number	
Name of Participant (Student) (please type)	
Date	

### The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Dr. Amy Peden
Email:	a.peden@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	02 9385 2132
Postal Address:	School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney, 2052 NSW