



UNSW Beach Safety  
Research Group



UNSW  
SYDNEY

## PARENT/GUARDIAN PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

*Whitebridge High School Focus Group*

*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?

You and your child are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to improve understanding of Australian student experiences with, and understanding of, beach hazards. Moreover, this research provides an opportunity for input into a beach safety education presentation designed by Lake Macquarie City Council lifeguards and researchers from the UNSW Beach Safety Research Group. The ultimate goal of this work is to improve high school beach safety education in order to prevent accidents from happening at the beach.

### 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 and/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 Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC).

### 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 in 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.

### 4. Do I have 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 or your child agree to take part and later change your/their mind, you/they are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you/your child decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.



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

If you agree for your child to participate your child will be asked to complete the following research procedures.

**Focus Group:** All focus group sessions will take place at your child's school during Physical Education class and will take approximately 50 minutes (one class period). During the focus group your child will be asked questions about their experience at the beach and their opinions on a beach safety education presentation for high schoolers. With your permission the research team would like to audio record the interview.

**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 focus group sessions 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 signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about/from you or your child 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 identity and your child's identity will be unknown.

- Information collected from you or your child in an electronic format will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive that is only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Information collected from you or your child 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.
- Audio recording of the focus group will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators. Audio recording will be made available to a professional transcription service. Recordings will only be made available after a confidentiality agreement with the professional transcription service has been signed.
- The information you or your child provides is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You or your child have the right of access to personal information held about you/them 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 not identify you or your child.



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If you or your child would like to receive a copy of the results you or your child can let the research team know by inserting an email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send the results of the research.

**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 or your child can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you or your child can email the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. The decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your or your child's relationship with UNSW Sydney or any of the organisations involved in this research including your child's school and Lake Macquaire City Council. If you or your child decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You or your child can request that any identifiable information about you or them be withdrawn from the research project.

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

If you or your child 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 or my child's involvement in the research study?**

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you or your child require further information regarding this study or if you or your child 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 – Parent/Guardian providing consent**

**Declaration by the participant**

*Please read each statement and check the appropriate boxes.*

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent for my child to participate in this research study;
- 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;
- Recordings: I understand that the research team will audio record the focus groups; I agree for my child to be recorded for this purpose.
- 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 my child is 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 would like to receive a copy of the study results via email or post, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;
- I understand that the results of the research will be made available on the UNSW Beach Safety Group website: [beachsafetyresearch.com](http://beachsafetyresearch.com).

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)	
Signature of Parent/Guardian	
Date	

**Student Signature**

Name of Student (please print)	
Signature of Student	
Date	

**Would you like to receive a copy of the study results?**

- I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email, I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_



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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 Name

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.