

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Understanding the Beach Safety Knowledge of Multicultural Communities

Chief Investigator: Prof. Robert Brander

1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study about multicultural communities and beach usage and safety. The research study aims to contribute valuable data that will assist in future beach safety education of multicultural communities. We are particularly interested in identifying relationships between your personal background, your interactions with beaches, and understanding of beach safety.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Professor Robert Brander and Mr Mark Woods from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNSW Sydney.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that you are eligible to take part. The research study is looking to recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- You are over the age of 18
- You identify as being part of a Southern Asian community (e.g. Indian, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, Afghani, Maldivian or Bhutanese) or you are affiliated with an organisation that works with multicultural communities and water safety.

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- If you would like to participate, sign and return the consent form and;
- Take a copy of this form home with you to keep.

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

If you decide to take part in the research study, we will ask you to participate in one or more Focus Group sessions.

All focus group sessions will take place in the Biological Sciences Building (D26) of UNSW Sydney on the Kensington Campus and will take approximately 2 hours. During the focus group, you will be asked questions about your personal background, ocean use, swimming ability, perception of the beach and staying safe at the beach. You will also be asked about these topics in relation to the community you belong to, or based on your experience of working with a Southern Asian community. With your permission the research team would like to audio record the interview. If you decide to participate in the focus group, your comments along with other participants will be recorded during the group discussions. Because of the way in which the focus group discussions are recorded, the research team will not be able to withdraw or destroy individual participant responses. However, all audio recordings will be transcribed using numeric identifiers so that participants are non-identifiable. If you will be asked to complete a follow up focus group, the research team will contact you via email to organise the time. You will receive an initial reminder and one follow up reminder.

Additional Costs and Reimbursement: There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, upon presentation of receipts, you will be reimbursed for any reasonable travel, parking, meals and other expenses while completing the Focus Group.

Psychological Distress: We don't expect that the focus group will cause you any harm or discomfort. However, you may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question or participate in discussion regarding that questions, you may stop your

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participation immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, the research team will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Alternatively, a number of free contactable support services are included below. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team. This counselling will be provided free of charge.

Contact for feelings of distress

Name/Organisation	Beyond Blue
Telephone	1300 22 4636

6. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you, or your opinions and knowledge, for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from the Focus Group for this research project for:

- A minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research.

The information about you will be stored in a non-identifiable format where your identify will be unknown.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team to share or use the information collected from you in:

- An undergraduate honours thesis;
- Potentially in an article published in a scientific journal article;

Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

- Information collected from you in an audio recording will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators

The information you provide 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 not identify you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send you the results of the research. The results of the research will also be made available on the UNSW Beach Safety Research Group website: <https://www.beachsafetyresearch.com/>

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

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form', which is provided at the end of this document. Alternatively, you can contact the Chief Investigator of the research (contact details below) and tell them you no longer want to participate. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. Your decision not to participate will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney.

Research Team Contact: Professor Rob Brander, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW Sydney; rbrander@unsw.edu.au; Mob: 0401 420 962

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 Sydney Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC200951

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 in the study, you can contact the following members of the research team:

Research Team Contact

Name	Professor Robert Brander
Position	Chief Investigator
Telephone	+61 2 9385 2899
Email	rbrander@unsw.edu.au
Name	Mr Mark Woods
Position	Student Investigator
Telephone	+61 2 9385 2899
Email	mark.woods@student.unsw.edu.au

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent 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 to be recorded for this purpose.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me 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 I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.
- I understand that the results of the research will be made available on the UNSW Beach Safety Research Group] website (www.beachsafetyresearch.com)**
- 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.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Participant Signature

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

Declaration by Researcher*

- I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Researcher Signature*

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

***An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.**

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales.

- I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.

Participant Name

Name of Participant (please type)	
Date	

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

CI Name:	Professor Rob Brander
Email:	rbrander@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	0401 420 962
Postal Address:	School of BEES, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2052