

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

We are a team of researchers at the Australian National University (specifically, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, ANU Medical School, and National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, and the Population Health Exchange). Ms Laura Gooyers-Bourke, a project officer at the ANU, is the coordinator of this project.

Project Title: Bushfire and health communication with children: exploratory phase

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** We are learning the best way to develop materials and processes for the translation of challenging health messages into visual culture for children and other vulnerable groups. We would like to interview you for 10-15 minutes about what we should be thinking about when we make a story book for children about bushfire smoke, like many would have experienced in late 2019-early 2020 in the Canberra region. Depending on your preference, we can do this interview in person, by phone, or online via Skype or Zoom.
- **Participants:** We will talk to adults who are parents, guardians, or otherwise work with primary-school age children who speak English. We expect to talk to about 5 people in this group, as part of a bigger study where we will talk to 60 people across different groups.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The information from this project will be used to develop a children's story book about bushfire smoke. We will also include the information in publications and future research about communicating other challenging population health topics to children. Once this project is finished, we will provide you with a copy of the story book that we have created. You can choose whether you want a physical, or digital copy.
- **Project Funding:** This project has been funded by the ANU RSSS cross-college proposal, the Research School of Population Health ANU, and ANU Medical School.

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** You do not have to be involved in this research unless you want to, and you can pull out of the research if you change your mind without telling me why. If you do pull out, I will not use what you told me.
- **What does participation in the research entail?** We will ask you some questions about what you think does and does not work well for children who speak English. We will also ask about how the children responded to the 2019-2020 bushfires, especially the smoke. We understand this may be distressing for you to talk about. We will audio record this (or take notes if you do not want to be recorded), then transcribe this recording for later analysis.
- **Location and Duration:** This research will take place from July 2020-July 2021 in the Australian Capital Territory. It will be either face-to-face or remotely via phone or Skype or Zoom. There are two parts. In this part, we hope to learn about what the story book should include. In the second part, which will happen later this year, we want to see what people think about the prototype book we make. You are welcome to participate in one, or both parts.
Remuneration: If you participate in this study, we will provide you with your choice of a physical or digital copy of the children's story book we make.
- **Risks:**

- Due to the relatively small community size of the A.C.T., there is a risk that third parties may be able to identify you based on your responses. We can work together to minimise this risk by making sure the formal part of your interview avoids personally identifying responses. There is also a risk that you will experience distress while reflecting on the experience of the 2019-2020 bushfires. If this is the case, please feel free to pause the interview, skip that question, or withdraw from the study. You can also contact Lifeline Australia at 13 11 14
- **Benefits:** We expect that this research will help inform the development of materials to help children who do not speak English as a first language understand important population health topics. You will directly benefit by receiving a copy of the book we develop as part of this project.

Exclusion criteria:

- **Participant Limitation:** Participants in this study must be aged 18 or over, and live or work in the Australian Capital Territory. They must speak English, and either be parents/guardians or work directly with primary-school aged children who also speak English.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:**
Only the research team will have access to the material provided by the participants. We will keep your responses separate from your name or contact details. In publications, we will attribute any quotes you provide to your age/sex/language (not by name). Although we will do our best to keep your responses confidential as far as the law allows, given the size of the local community, you may be re-identifiable, so you should avoid providing any sensitive information.

Privacy Notice:

In collecting your personal information within this research, the ANU must comply with the Privacy Act 1988. The ANU Privacy Policy is available at https://policies.anu.edu.au/pp1/document/ANUP_010007 and it contains information about how a person can:

- Access or seek correction to their personal information;
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle by ANU, and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** Recordings of your interview will be stored on password-protected computers belonging to the research team at the Australian National University. Once transcribed (and de-identified), the raw recordings will be deleted. The transcripts will be stored on the same computers, and also in a Dropbox folder. You can read about the Dropbox privacy policy here: <https://www.dropbox.com/privacy>
- **Data handling:** the data will be stored for five years after we publish our results, and will then be destroyed.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** Provide an explanation of what will happen to the data at the end of the storage period. Explain if the data will be destroyed, archived or used for future research projects. In the latter case, be as specific as possible.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** Please contact Laura Gooyers-Bourke (+61 2 5124 8726, Laura.Gooyers@anu.edu.au) or Dr. Erin Walsh (erin.walsh@anu.edu.au, +61 2 6125 8291)

- **Contact Details if in Distress:** If you experience any distress arising from participation in this study, please contact Lifeline Australia at 13 11 14

Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2020/354). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au