

**Project Title:** Effective communication of population health research

### Participant Information Sheet

#### Researcher:

Hi, I'm Dr. Ginny Sargent from the PHXchange, Research School of Population Health, at the Australian National University. I am the primary investigator of a team of researchers from the ANU (including myself, Dr. Merryn McKinnon, Dr. Erin I. Walsh, and Amelia Yazidjoglou) and Questacon (Shannon Cook, and Anita Beck).

#### General Outline of the Project:

This project aims to find effective ways to communicate about population health information with the general public.

At this event at Questacon, the main population health topic is COVID-19 vaccination. We are interested to know if the presentation style and content are entertaining and effective in increasing the audience's skills to identify misinformation.

**Participants:** Our main participant group are people who attend this Questacon event in July, 2021. We expect this will be about 150 people. Other participants will be the academics and Questacon staff who put the event together (we expect around 10 people), and undergraduate university students (we expect around 20 people).

**Use of Data and Feedback:** Data we collect will be used to evaluate this event, and may form part of scholarly publications, presentations, and future event planning. We will provide a summary of the research findings on the ANU PHXchange website.

#### Participant involvement:

**Voluntary participation & withdrawal:** Participation in this research is **voluntary** and you may, without negative consequences, decline to take part in the research without providing an explanation at any time. We will have no way to identify your data prior to withdrawal of consent, so it will remain part of the research project, but we will discard any further data you may provide.

**What does participation in the research entail?** If you participate in this research, you will:

- **Be passively filmed from a distance.** This will be done via devices like statically mounted go-pros. We will use this footage to track things like how people engage with the space and performances. We are not interested in individual's identities or following anyone in particular: you will be one person in a larger crowd. This footage will be stored on ANU password protected computers and will not be shared outside of the research team. We will not retain any audio. Once the research is complete, we will securely delete the video recordings.
- **Respond during the event to real-time polls.** We will keep a record of all polling that is part of the event. We won't be able to identify individual responses, we will only have a total count of how many people in a session responded in a particular way.
- **Possibly be asked to provide feedback on the event.** You might be approached by a videographer with a quick question to make a "vox pop", or by a Questacon staff member with

a very quick feedback survey. Questions will be about the topics discussed at the event, or about how you feel about the event itself.

- **Respond to short pre- and post-event surveys.** This will be done online or on your phone. Each survey will include some basic demographic questions and questions about the topics discussed at the event, or about the event itself, and would take less than ten minutes.

**Location and Duration:** Most of this research will take place at the Questacon event. Is required that participants follow public health order with regard to signing in to the event with QR Codes and indoor mask wearing as appropriate.

**Risks:** Participating in this research poses minimal risk, as it is largely unobtrusive and tied to your engagement with the Questacon event. While everyone will be filmed, before the footage is used for any purpose one of the research team will edit the footage so that people who do not consent to participate in this research will have their faces and bodies hidden by black rectangles. Because we won't blur out the faces of consenting participants, there is a risk one of the research team may recognise you. We will not share the footage outside of the research team, and will delete it once our data extraction is complete. Although the online surveys will be anonymous, is also a risk of re-identification on the basis of your answers.

**Benefits:** It is unlikely that you will personally benefit from participating in this research, but the information we collect will help to improve future events, and inform best practice for bringing researchers and members of the general public together to discuss public health topics like COVID-19.

#### Exclusion criteria:

**Participant Limitation:** Only adults aged 18 and above are eligible to participate.

#### Confidentiality:

**Confidentiality:** Confidentiality will be protected as far as the law allows

#### Privacy Notice:

Australian privacy law (or rules) require me to tell you how the ANU handles your private information, and you can ask the research team to give you more details of that, or how you can find out what information we have about you and to fix it if it is wrong.

#### Data Storage:

**Where:** All research data collected during the event (including polling results and passive recordings) will be transferred to a password-protected ANU computer. Recordings specific to the research component (e.g. go-pro footage) will be deleted off the devices. Aggregate results (e.g. the total number of people who responded "yes" to a polling question) may be shared via email and cloud storage services like Microsoft Teams or Dropbox.

**How long:** To avoid privacy and re-identifiability concerns, the passive video footage will be deleted once data extraction is complete. This will be no more than one year after the event. All other unidentifiable data will be stored indefinitely.

### Queries and Concerns:

**Contact Details for More Information:** For more information, contact [Ginny.sargent@anu.edu.au](mailto:Ginny.sargent@anu.edu.au), Phone number +02 61255546

### Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2021/345). 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](mailto:Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au)