

# Ethical requirements for data collection

## Project Title:

***Schoolyard Greenprint Study***

## Researcher

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## Project Aim

The University of Canberra is studying the design quality and impact of schoolyards on students in Years 7 – 12. The aim is to advance knowledge regarding the effects of current school ground design traditions on the health and behaviours of student users. This information will assist in the development of recommendations to guide the design of school grounds in ways that support the unique needs of Year 7-12 school communities.

## Benefits of the Project

Determinants of secondary schoolyard quality are not well documented. This study aims to elevate the role of these important outdoor spaces by gathering data on their design quality from those who know them best: their creators, users and managers. Based on this feedback, a consensus framework around key schoolyard attributes and impacts will be developed. This information will create a starting point towards a national conversation addressing the critical role these spaces serve and recommendations to guide their development.

## General Outline of the Project

Data will be collected through online surveys and discussions. Surveys will be distributed through online links for stakeholders to share written feedback and imagery. Discussions with participants will be conducted online via Teams and facilitated by the research team. Each online session will make use of Microsoft Whiteboard and consist of up to ten participants, organised based on a specific focus area. Sessions are scheduled to last for approximately two hours, structured around topics of schoolyard function, use and design impact. Each session will be recorded via Teams for purposes of this research study and will not be repurposed for any other reason. Ethical approval has been given by the University of Canberra (HREC-14355).

### **Confidentiality**

Only the researcher/s will have access to the individual information provided by participants. Privacy and confidentiality will be assured at all times and no names will be used. The research outcomes may be presented at conferences and written up for publication. However, in all these publications, the privacy and confidentiality of individuals will be protected. All reports and publications of the research will contain no information that can identify any individual and all information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

### **Safety**

Any research team member present during focus group discussions is required to hold a valid Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to provide a reason. Participants can send an email to the [Gweneth.Leigh@canberra.edu.au](mailto:Gweneth.Leigh@canberra.edu.au) indicating their desire to withdraw. This will remove data provided by the participant from use for current and future research.

### **Data Storage**

The information collected will be stored securely on a password protected computer throughout the project and then stored at the University of Canberra for the required five-year period after which it will be destroyed according to university protocols.

### **Ethics Committee Clearance**

The project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Canberra (HREC 14356).

### **Queries and Concerns**

Queries or concerns regarding the research can be directed to the researcher and/or supervisor. Contact details are at the top of this form. Funding of the project is provided through Frontiers developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Landscape Foundation Australia and contributions from the Australian Government.

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the University of Canberra's Research Ethics & Integrity Unit team via telephone 02 6206 3916 or email [humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au](mailto:humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au) or [researchethicsandintegrity@canberra.edu.au](mailto:researchethicsandintegrity@canberra.edu.au).