

## Participant Information Sheet

### Researcher:

Hello, I'm Emily Standen, a PhD Candidate at the Australian National University (ANU) National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS). I would like to invite you to participate in my research project on culturally-appropriate science teaching in the South Pacific.

### Project Title:

Science education in the South Pacific

### General Outline of the Project:

#### Description and Methodology:

This research aims to better understand what culturally-appropriate science education should look like in the South Pacific. Data will be gathered through surveys, interviews, workshops, workshop outputs, meetings, and general observations during the program.

Note this research aims to critically assess the process being used, so we fully welcome your comments both negative and positive. This feedback is important to improving future projects, and is an important element of the research taking place. We are looking for your honest opinions, so if think something was poorly done or could be improved we greatly value that input.

### Participants:

Anyone currently taking part in studies of science education at the University of the South Pacific is invited to participate. Additionally, participants will be invited to volunteer from institutions related to education in the South Pacific, for example, from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (Samoa), National University of Samoa and Fiji National University.

### Use of Data and Feedback:

Data from this research may be used at professional conferences, published in academic journals, and/or mainstream media articles. Individuals will not be identifiable through this presented data unless they request otherwise. You will be provided with a summary of the findings as part of the ongoing communication regarding the course follow-up. We will seek additional consent for any further use of the data collected for further research purposes.

### Project Funding:

The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and ANU.

### Participant Involvement:

#### Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:

Involvement in the research is voluntary. You can withdraw at any time without negative consequences up until results are prepared for publication. You do not have to provide a reason for withdrawal – it is at your discretion. If you withdraw, you may give permission for your responses up to that point to still be used,

otherwise your data will be destroyed. You do not have to answer all questions or take part in all aspects of the data collection. Note that with data from group sessions, it may not be possible for you to withdraw your comments due to the risk of altering the context of the other comments.

For students studying of science education at the University of the South Pacific, note while I appreciate your involvement this is entirely at your discretion and you will not be disadvantaged or otherwise negatively affected in your studies or elsewhere if you choose not to participate.

## What does participation in the research entail?

### Location and Duration:

Data collection will vary depending on your involvement with the wider program. For most participants it will involve:

- For students studying of science education at the University of the South Pacific, an online survey containing questions about science and science teaching in your country. The survey will be administered online and take approximately **15** minutes to complete.
- Meetings, talanoa, interviews and group interview/discussion. These sessions will vary in length, from 30 minutes to half or full day sessions. The main method of data collection will be notes taken during sessions by the researcher, as well as materials developed during the session (e.g. notes on butchers paper/posters developed). Notes taken by individual participants will not be collected. Sessions or parts of sessions may be audio and/or video recorded, and you will be notified of this at the start of the session, and your consent sought. These recordings will not be fully transcribed, but may be used to transcribe short quotes and other excerpts. You may request a copy of the recording and/or excerpts. These recordings will be stored in secure electronic locations. The researcher and other researchers at CPAS may use the recordings for research purposes.
- For participants volunteering to be shadowed in their workplace, the researcher will record observations throughout the day, and discuss these with you at various points.
- Data may also be collected through interactions during the training and other informal observations, such as feedback to the training or the content of session outputs such as a workshop for future teachers.

## Risks:

### Sensitive or controversial questions:

While most questions will be of a general, non-controversial nature, you should use your own judgement when reporting anything that may be potentially sensitive or have negative effects on you, such as a criticism of government policy (note you will not be identified by name – see below). You should be particularly careful of making any statements that may be illegal or highly controversial, or open you to legal harm, prejudice, reputational damage, or other negative effects.

In addition, the researcher will contact you to discuss anything thought to be sensitive before publishing it. In this case, you will have the opportunity to edit any identifying details or request the sensitive matter be omitted. Please note, as explained below, all comments will be anonymous and every effort taken to maintain privacy. Apart from this aspect, there are no known risks to taking part in the research.

## Benefits:

This research will help create more effective and culturally-appropriate teacher training programs when working with international partners. The structure and outcomes of the project depends on your input and collaboration, ensuring the outcomes benefit you. The research will also help CPAS understand what will assist you to implement things you've learned during the program, along with any difficulties you may face. We will use this information to provide support to you wherever we can. More broadly, this research will benefit future training programs and other teachers in the region.

## Confidentiality:

Your responses will be de-identified once data is collected and names will not be used in publications and reporting. You have two options for identification:

- No identification; all data you provide is unattributed or a pseudonym used.
- For interview or talanoa participants, using your session group, gender, and a number. This level of identification is helpful to give the data geographical context and get a before and after picture of individuals in the program.

Given the number of participants, it is possible that an individual may be identifiable by cross-referencing group and gender. Please note, confidentiality can only be provided to the extent permitted by law.

Participants who complete a survey have the option of entering a lottery for one of five \$30 prize vouchers. This lottery will be drawn the day after the survey closes by the researcher (Emily Standen), and winners notified via email. Winning participants will have their name published in an email to all participants who registered for the lottery as per the requirements of the ACT Government trade promotion lottery. Participant details will not be connected to survey responses or kept on record after the winning participant names are published.

## 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/ppl/document/ANUP\\_010007](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/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:

Data will be stored securely and treated as confidential. When data is collated into electronic format any personal information will be separated from your answers to keep your identity confidential. Hardcopy surveys will be stored at the ANU in a locked office. Electronic data will be stored on ANU computers and the researcher's laptop in a password protected environment. Data will be stored for a minimum of five years following all publications arising from the research and may be retained for longer. The data may be used for future research and the researcher will contact you to gain your consent if so. Any data or hardcopy surveys will be disposed of in a confidential manner.

## Queries and Concerns:

For more information, please feel free to contact me at:

Emily Standen

Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, The Australian National University  
Building 42A, Canberra, ACT 0200

Email: [e.standen@anu.edu.au](mailto:e.standen@anu.edu.au)

Web: <http://cpas.anu.edu.au>

Dr Graham Walker

[Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science](#)

Australian National University

[L1 Bld 42A, Linnaeus Way, Acton ACT 2601](#)

p. +61 (0)2 6125 9224 tw/fb. @DrGrahams

## Ethics Committee Clearance:

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee 2019/364. 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)