

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Evidence on cold in Australian homes

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: H-2022-027

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr Lyrian Daniel

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

What is the project about?

Australia is considered to be a summer country, however, it actually takes more energy to make our houses comfortable in winter than in summer. Australian homes are often designed in a way and are in such condition that they are difficult to heat, which can have serious negative impacts on health and wellbeing. There is, however, a lack of national data on the indoor conditions within Australian homes during winter. During winter and early spring 2022, we will be monitoring to 500 homes across Australia, in order to get a better understanding of the average indoor conditions within Australian homes.

This project presents an opportunity for us to collect and produce new evidence on housing conditions, aimed at contributing to buildings codes and standards, public health, and housing policy.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by Dr Lyrian Daniel, Professor Emma Baker, Dr Cynthia Isley and Ms Gemma Sansom from the School of Social Science at the University of Adelaide. This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Why am I being invited to participate?

You are being invited to participate in this study because you live in a climate that has cool or cold wintertime conditions.

What am I being invited to do and how much time will my involvement in the project take?

You are being invited to provide indoor temperature and humidity data from your home during winter. Firstly, this will involve giving your consent online and filling out a 15-minute online questionnaire about housing quality and conditions, energy affordability and usage, and household information. The research team will then post you a temperature sensor that will be used to collect data.

Upon receipt of the sensor, you will participate in the following research activities:

- Having air temperature and relative humidity recorded in your main living area for approximately 5-6 months until October 2022. See below for pictures and information on the temperature sensor. Toward the end of the monitoring period, we will send you a reply paid envelope for you to return the temperature sensor.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

The online questionnaire will ask about your general health and wellbeing. If we ask any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering or cause any distress, you may stop the questionnaire or skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Emergency numbers to call for help, support and advice are: Lifeline (13 11 14) and Mental Health Emergency (13 14 65).

What are the potential benefits of the research project?

There are no direct benefits associated with participation in this study, however we expect that findings from this work will assist in the production of healthier houses in the future by contributing to our understanding of how indoor conditions influence the health and wellbeing of occupants.

To recognise your valuable contribution to this project we are offering a gift voucher valued at \$25AUD at the completion of the data collection period. Additionally, we will provide you with the final published report if requested. Reports generated from this study will also be available on the project website (address).

Can I withdraw from the project?

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time until the completion of the data collection period in October 2022. You are welcome to contact the research team if you would like further information about the project before signing the consent form.

What will happen to my information?

Your information will be stored securely within University facilities. Any identifiable information will only be accessed by the researchers involved in this study (named above). The results from the project will always be reported as a whole and you will never be individually identifiable. We will report the results of this study through research papers published in international academic conferences and journals. Your de-identified data may be used in future research projects or shared with other researchers.

Your information will only be used as described in this participant information sheet and it will only be disclosed according to the consent provided, except as required by law.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers via the details listed below:

Primary contacts

Dr Cynthia Isley

Phone: 0419632814

Email: cynthia.isley@adelaide.edu.au

Secondary contacts:

Dr Lyrrian Daniel

Phone: +61 8 8313 2730

Email: lyrian.daniel@adelaide.edu.au

Professor Emma Baker

Phone: +61 8 8313 4851

Email: emma.baker@adelaide.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Adelaide (approval number H-2022-027). This research project will be conducted according to the *NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018)*. If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the project, then you should consult the Principal Investigator. If you wish to speak with an independent person regarding concerns or a complaint, the University's policy on research involving human participants, or your rights as a participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee's Secretariat on:

Phone: +61 8 8313 6028

Email: hrec@adelaide.edu.au

Post: Level 3, Rundle Mall Plaza, 50 Rundle Mall, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

If I want to participate, what do I do?

If you wish to participate, and are over the age of 18 years old, please visit (WEB ADDRESS) or get in touch with Dr Cynthia Isley via phone or email. From here, we will ask you to sign and return a research consent form, and then post out the temperature sensor. Instructions and a link for the online survey will be included in the sensor package.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lyrrian Daniel

Professor Emma Baker

Dr Cynthia Isley

Ms Gemma Sansom

The TZone TempU03 Temperature and Humidity Data Logger will be used in this project. This is a small temperature and relative humidity sensor and you can place it out-of-sight in your main living area. More information on the sensor can be found on the following link:

[Multi-use USB Temp&RH Data Logger \(tzone digital.com\)](http://tzone digital.com)

