

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: The use of interjurisdictional collaborative trials as a tool for forensic odontology

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: H-2019-142

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Denice Higgins

Dear Participant,

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

What is the project about?

The aim of this project is to assess the current opinion of forensic odontologist with regards to interjurisdictional collaborative trials and proficiency testing for forensic identification via dental comparison.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by Dr Denice Higgins, Assoc Prof Alex Forrest and Ms Anna Davey.

Why am I being invited to participate?

All Australian forensic odontologists are being invited to participate anonymously.

What will I be asked to do?

Fill in a questionnaire online.

How much time will the project take?

The questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

There are no foreseeable risks.

What are the benefits of the research project?

You may not directly benefit from this project. However, the outcome of this study may help influence change in the practice of forensic identification practices.

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 before the submission of the survey.

What will happen to my information?

The survey information will be stored at the Forensic Odontology Unit, University of Adelaide. Only researchers will have access to the information. Data will be collated to provide a general overview of the practice of dental identification in Australia as a whole. Any specific opinions will not be quoted in the thesis or in publications. Participants will only be identified as 'forensic odontologists'. At this stage

the data is not intended for use in future research. However, your non-identifiable data may be used in the future by the same researchers.

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

If you have any questions regarding the research, please get in contact with Ms Anna Davey.

Phone: (03) 9018 8919

Email: anna.davey@forensicfoundations.com.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-2019-142). 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 4, 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 would like to participate please fill in the survey and submit online. *Submission of your responses will be taken as a sign of your consent to participate and confirmation that you have read this information sheet.*

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Anna Davey

Dr. Denice Higgins

Assoc Prof Alex Forrest