

## Participant Information Sheet for the research project:

**Project Title:** Participatory evaluation of science communication conferences

### Who is doing the research?

My name is Cobi Smith, I am a PhD student from Australian National University's Centre for the Public Awareness of Science and primary investigator of this research project.

### What is the research about?

This project experiments with participatory evaluation of the Australian Science Communicators National Conference in Sydney 2012.

### What does the research involve?

If you choose to participate in the participatory evaluation session of the conference you're attending, you can be part of this project. Participation in the session is voluntary – there are other concurrent sessions in the conference should you prefer not to participate in this research. The one-hour session will involve an explanation of how participatory evaluation works, small group discussions with written outcomes, then a larger group discussion bringing together small groups' contributions. Your contributions to the session will guide development of a digital survey about the conference you're attending, which will be made available to participants from the participatory evaluation session as well as other conferences delegates who didn't attend the session, after the conference via email.

### How will my contribution to the research be used?

As well as the survey outlined above, the data from the participatory evaluation session will be used for reporting to the conference organizers, which should be completed within six months of the conference, to inform future conference planning. A journal paper including results of the research will be written and published in a peer reviewed journal. If you have opted to receive future correspondence from the conference organisers then you will be updated on these outcomes. The audio data from the large group discussion and photographs of the written records from your small group discussions will be kept on a password protected laptop and kept for 5 years from publication.

The audio from the large group discussion will be recorded for analysis, but individuals will not be identified. Neither need you be identified in the written outcomes from your small group discussions. You can choose to withdraw your participation after starting the session; however any contributions you make as written feedback within your small group or on the audio recording of the larger group will remain.

### What are the risks and benefits for me?

You will be asked to share your thoughts about the conference with other participants, including frank discussion about what could be improved, which may make some people feel anxious. Aside from this, we don't expect discomfort. You may find sharing your feedback about the conference rewarding; your contribution may influence science communication conferences in future years. You may find experiencing a participatory evaluation process useful for your work as a science communicator, and it may influence how you think about evaluating your own projects in future.

### How is the research paid for?

The participatory evaluation sessions are a part of the larger conference you are attending and are sponsored accordingly. The associated research activity is through the Australian National University's Centre for the Public Awareness.

### What if I have other questions?

For further information you can contact Cobi Smith at [cobi.smith@anu.edu.au](mailto:cobi.smith@anu.edu.au) or on +61 8 7120 8630. You can contact supervisor Dr Rod Lamberts at [rod.lamberts@anu.edu.au](mailto:rod.lamberts@anu.edu.au) or on +61 2 6125 0747.

For mail correspondence:

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### What if I have a complaint?

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee. 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 (0)2 6125 3427  
Email: [Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au)