



Form Updated: February 2011

HUMAN ETHICS APPLICATION: CATEGORY B (Departmental Approval)

1. University of Otago staff member responsible for project:

Shephard Kerry Professor

2. Department: HEDC

3. Contact details of staff member responsible: kerry.shephard@otago.ac.nz

4. Title of project: Exploring what university teachers think about 'education for sustainability', 'environmental literacy' and their possible roles within these domains.

5. Indicate type of project and names of other investigators and students:

Staff Research

Names

Interviews and focus groups will be conducted either by me or by one or more research assistants under my supervision.

Student Research

Names

Level of Study (e.g. PhD, Masters, Hons)

External Research/

Names

Collaboration

Institute/Company

6. When will recruitment and data collection commence?

August 23rd 2012

When will data collection be completed?

This approval is valid for the research described until July 31st 2014

7. Brief description in lay terms of the aim of the project, and outline of research questions
(approx. 200 words):

A significant exploration is underway within the University of Otago to better understand the ecological worldviews/sustainability literacy/environmental literacy of Otago's students. A less-advanced project explores what university teachers think about these domains and what the implications are for them as University Teachers, their institution and higher education. A range of processes are underway or currently being developed to explore this domain, comprising semi-structured interviews, surveys and focus groups.

8. Brief description of the method. Please include a description of who the participants are, how the participants will be recruited, and what they will be asked to do:-

Within this ethics application, all participants will be teachers at the University of Otago, all will be volunteers and they will be asked to contribute to semi-structured interviews, surveys and focus groups. The research-instruments currently in use are the Revised New Ecological Paradigm scale (NEP) and an instrument under development named the Approaches to Sustainability Teaching Inventory (ASTI); both requiring participants to agree or disagree with a number of statements, and potentially add open ended comments. Other similar surveys may be used in the future. Interview questions will be open ended and seek to enable the participant to reflect on and describe their perceptions about the research field. Focus groups will enable participants to reach shared understanding of the domains in question.

9. Please disclose and discuss any potential problems: (For example: medical/legal problems, issues with disclosure, conflict of interest, etc)

There are no substantial ethical issues. All participant involvement will be voluntary and all data collected anonymous (to all but the researchers). All participants will be advised that they can withdraw from the study at any time, until such time as their data becomes anonymous. The issues involved in the research may be vital to our planet's survival but generally do not arouse strong passion in University Teachers relevant to ethical concerns related to research.

Where the data from the participants involves responses to questionnaires, participants will be informed that submitting their data provides their consent for their responses to be incorporated into the research. Where the data involves transcribed interviews or focus group

Reporting Sheet for use ONLY for proposals considered at departmental level

reports written consent will be obtained from all participants immediately prior to the interview.

Applicant's Signature:

*(Principal Applicant: as specified in Question 1, Must **not** be in the name of a student)*

Signature of *Head of Department:

Name of Signatory (please print):

Date:

Departmental approval: *I have read this application and believe it to be scientifically and ethically sound. I approve the research design. The Research proposed in this application is compatible with the University of Otago policies and I give my consent for the application to be forwarded to the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee.*

**(In cases where the Head of Department is also the principal researcher then an appropriate senior staff member in the department must sign)*

IMPORTANT: The completed form, **together with copies of any Information Sheet, Consent Form and any recruitment advertisement for participants**, should be forwarded to the Manager Academic Committees or the Academic Committees Assistant, Registry, **as soon as the proposal has been considered and signed at departmental level.** Forms can be sent hardcopy to Academic Committees, Room G23 or G24, Ground Floor, Clocktower Building, or scanned and emailed to gary.witte@otago.ac.nz.