

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Exploring what university teachers think about ‘education for sustainability’,
‘environmental literacy’ and their possible roles within these domains.**

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate I thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you of any kind and I thank you for considering this request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

This project will use several research approaches to gather data. Participants may be asked to complete written surveys, interviewed by the researchers using a semi structured interview approach or discuss the issues in focus groups

What Type of Participants are being sought?

University Teachers at the University of Otago.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to take part in this project you may be interviewed by the researchers using a semi structured interview approach and/or asked to complete one or more research-surveys and/or take part in a focus group. Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind. Where your input involves responses to questionnaires, submitting your data provides your consent for your responses to be incorporated into the research. Where the data involves transcribed interviews or focus group interactions, your written consent will be obtained. This project may involve an open-questioning technique where the precise nature of the questions which will be asked have not been determined in advance, but will depend on the way in which the interview develops. Consequently, although the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee may be aware of the general areas to be explored in the interview, the Committee has not reviewed the precise questions to be used. In the event that the line of questioning does develop in such a way that you feel hesitant or uncomfortable you are reminded of your right to decline to answer any particular question(s) and also that you may withdraw from the project at any stage without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind but once your anonymous survey form or other research instrument has been collected from you the data cannot be removed from the research as there will be no way to trace it to you. By submitting data you are providing your consent to its use as described here.

What Data or Information will be collected and What Use will be Made of it?

The results of the project may be published and will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand). The nature of this research process protects your identity. You are most welcome to request a copy of the results of the project should you wish. The data will be analysed by the researcher who collected it and, in an anonymous form, by researchers in the University’s Higher Education Development Centre and by researchers in the University’s Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The anonymous data may also be used as a resource to support student learning. The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those will be able to gain access to it. As required by the University's research policy, any raw data on which the results of the project depend will be retained in secure storage for five years, after which it will be destroyed.

Reporting Sheet for use ONLY for proposals considered at departmental level

Reasonable precautions will be taken to protect and destroy data gathered by email. However, the security of electronically transmitted information cannot be guaranteed. Caution is advised in the electronic transmission of sensitive material.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about this project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact

Professor Kerry Shephard (kerry.shephard@otago.ac.nz).