

*Housing literacy and the Australian secondary school curriculum***PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

<b>HREC Project Number:</b>	HRE2025-0688
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Housing literacy and the Australian secondary school curriculum</i>
<b>Chief Investigator:</b>	<i>Associate Professor Amity James, Associate Professor in the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance. Discipline Lead: Property</i>
<b>Version Number:</b>	V 2.0
<b>Version Date:</b>	10/04/2026

**What is the Project About?**

- The ability for households or individuals to make informed housing decisions relies upon their understanding of the housing system, that is their housing literacy. A lack of access to information, or deficits in housing literacy can shape the extent to which households understand the housing options and pathways available to them.
- This research explores the extent to which the early Australian secondary school curriculum is teaching students about the housing system, considers what could be taught at this level and, using a novel housing literacy framework, identifies opportunities to further develop housing literacy capability, among young Australians.
- We are conducting focus groups with Australian Educators to understand the extent to which they incorporate housing related topics into their teaching of the Australian Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) curriculum for years 7 to 10 and identify opportunities to further developed this content within the curriculum.

**Who is doing the Research?**

- The project is being conducted by Amity James from Curtin University and Wendy Stone, Zoë Goodall and Robert New, all from Swinburne University.

**Why am I being asked to take part and what will I have to do?**

- We are inviting HASS educators who teach the years 7 to 10 curriculum to help us understand the way in which they incorporate housing and housing related topics into their teaching and identify opportunities to further support its inclusion.
- You will be asked to participate in a one-hour online focus group with up to 10 participants.
- During the focus group we will ask you questions about the HASS curriculum, the extent to which housing related content is taught or used as examples in your classrooms, how confident you feel teaching housing related content and the opportunity to embed housing related concepts into the curriculum.
- There will be no cost to you for taking part in this research and you will not be paid for taking part.

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- We will make a digital video and audio recording so we can concentrate on what you have to say and not distract ourselves with taking notes. After the focus group we will make a full written copy of the recording.

#### **Are there any benefits' to being in the research project?**

- There may be no direct benefit to you from participating in this research, but sometimes, people appreciate the opportunity to discuss their opinions.
- We hope the results of this research will allow us to:
  - better understand the extent to which the Australian HASS curriculum for years 7-10 is teaching students about the housing system;
  - identify opportunities for housing related concepts to be further incorporated.

#### **Are there any risks, side-effects, discomforts or inconveniences from being in the research project?**

- Apart from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or inconveniences associated with taking part in this study.

#### **Who will have access to my information?**

- The information collected in this research will be re-identifiable (coded). This means that we will collect data that can identify you but will then remove identifying information on any data or sample and replace it with a code when we analyse the data. Only the research team have access to the code to match your name if it is necessary to do so. Any information we collect will be treated as confidential and used only in this project unless otherwise specified. The following people will have access to the information we collect in this research: the research team and, in the event of an audit or investigation, staff from the Curtin University Office of Research and Development
- Electronic data will be password-protected and hard copy data (including video or audio tapes) will be in locked storage.
- The information we collect in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for 7 years after the research is published and then it will be destroyed.
- The results of this research may be presented at conferences or published in professional journals. You will not be identified in any results that are published or presented.
- Information collected during this research may be shared with other researchers working on future ethically-approved research projects related to this project. Any data used in future research would be reported on anonymously, however, it would be possible for the raw data to be re-identified, should the need arise. Only researchers will be able to access raw data.

#### **Will you tell me the results of the research?**

- If you are interested in obtaining a summary of the results, please contact the researchers after 31 January 2027. Results will not be individual but based on all the information we collect and review as part of the research.
- The results will be collated and analysed and the findings will be published in journal articles and conference presentations but will not include identifiable information.

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### **Do I have to take part in the research project?**

Taking part in a research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project until the analysis is completed. If you choose not to take part or start and then stop the study, it will not affect your relationship with the University, staff or colleague.

### **What happens next and who can I contact about the research?**

- If you would like further information or have questions please contact Associate Professor Amity James, on ph (08) 9266 7866.
- If you decide to take part in this research, we will ask you to sign the consent form. This will be emailed to you before the focus group and we will request that it is returned via email prior to the focus commencing. By signing it is telling us that you understand what you have read and what has been discussed. Signing the consent indicates that you agree to be in the research project. Please take your time and ask any questions you have before you decide what to do. You will be given a copy of this information and the consent form to keep.

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HREC number HRE2025-0688). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email [hrec@curtin.edu.au](mailto:hrec@curtin.edu.au).