

INFORMATION SHEET

Leaves in Canberra

(GU ref no: 2021/812)

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Background

This research is being funded by the ACT government and is being conducted to understand ACT residents' opinions about leaf litter (leaves, twigs, bark, flowers, and nuts) and grass clippings and what they do about it around their nature strip or road gutter.

What is involved in participation?

You are asked to fill out an online survey that includes questions on leaf litter, grass clippings, lifestyle and values, and some demographic characteristics. Filling in the survey is estimated to take approximately 5-10 minutes. Data from the submitted surveys is analysed and aggregated results are produced.

Voluntary participation

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary; there is no obligation to take part in the study. If you choose not to participate, there will be no penalty, consequence, or detriment to you. Submitting the survey is accepted as your consent to participate in this project. If you wish to withdraw from the survey while you are doing it, you can do so by simply closing the survey. Please note that the survey is anonymous and will not be able to withdraw once you have submitted it as it will not be possible to identify your responses.

Confidentiality and anonymity

The information collected is anonymous and confidential. It is not possible to individually identify participants. Data is reported as an average or overall picture of findings.

Data will be stored securely on a secure (password-protected) Griffith University server, will only be accessible to the research team, and will be stored for a minimum of five years from the date of reporting of the findings, after which the data is destroyed. A copy of the anonymised data will be supplied to the ACT government.

The treatment of personal information in this research complies with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld), the Privacy Act 1988, and Griffith University's Privacy Plan available at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/plans-publications/griffith-university-privacy-plan>, or by contacting telephone (07) 3735 4375.

Risks and benefits to you

Your participation in the study is not likely to pose risks beyond your normal day-to-day living. Understanding the views and actions of ACT residents on leaf litter and grass clippings contributes to developing insights into the maintenance of healthy waterways for the benefit of all ACT residents.

Questions / further information

Participants may contact Dr Anna Kitunen or any of the Social Marketing @ Griffith researchers listed above for additional information about the project.

Dissemination of research findings

Results and findings from the survey will be included in a report to the ACT government at the conclusion of the research at the end of June 2023. It is anticipated that findings will be disseminated through peer-reviewed academic journals and conference presentations to contribute to the scientific literature. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the report, please email a member of the research team. Data dissemination will be in accordance with the Privacy and Confidentiality conditions.

Concerns or complaints

Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. Should you have any complaints or concerns about the way this project is conducted, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers listed at the beginning of this sheet, or you may prefer to contact Griffith University Research Ethics at 07 3735 4375, or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au citing Protocol GU 2021/812.