

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Project Title: Evaluating the effectiveness of household food waste interventions

Chief Investigator: Dr Gamithri Karunasena

Organization: The research will be conducted by Central Queensland University (CQU), Sydney, NSW, 2000

Research Funder: This research is funded by the Department Agriculture Water and Environment (DAWE), Australia and Inner West Council

What is the research study about?

You have been invited to take part in this study because of your involvement with household food management activities.

We are conducting research to learn about effectiveness of a suite of interventions designed to increase the take-up of food waste reduction behaviours in households.

By understanding the above, we believe this study would help develop and implement food waste reduction interventions that are most impactful in reducing food waste in Australian households.

Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. Your decision will not affect your relationship with CQU, DAWE or Sydney Inner West Council.

This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. It explains the research tasks involved. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative or friend.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Provide consent to participating in the study by submitting your answers to the survey questions;
- Keep a copy of this Participant Information Statement.

What does participation in this research require?

Once you qualify for this survey, it should only take around 7-8 minutes to complete this survey.

During the survey you will be asked to provide us with a valid email address. We will use this email you provide us to share with you information on how you can improve your food management practices to reduce household food waste and to send follow up surveys. In the coming weeks we will be in contact with you to share information on various tips, ideas, workshops on various food management topic.

You will be sent a second survey (takes around 7-8 minutes to complete) immediately after you complete the activities sent to you via email. This will help us assess how helpful the information we shared with you with respect to reducing food waste at your home.

You will receive a third survey again after 4-6 weeks' time (takes around 7-8 minutes to complete). This will help us understand how we could help you sustain the new household food management practices/behaviours you adopted.

Are there any risks involved?

This research is being conducted by CQU and CQU research is conducted under the Information Privacy Act which ensures confidentiality of your information (<https://www.cqu.edu.au/privacy>). Your individual information will be de identified following completion of the study and then aggregated with other survey responses we receive. In this way no one will be able to identify your information in any reports, publications, or other outputs arising from this research.

The study poses no physical harm or discomfort to you. Aside from giving up your time we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

Will I be paid to participate in this project?

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be entitled to a draw in appreciation of your time and effort after completing this survey. This survey you complete will give you an entry to win a \$200 voucher for a small cheese plate from Radish Events or one of two \$100 gift voucher for the Cornersmith Cooking School. Answering two post-surveys will give you an entry to win one of two \$100 vouchers for Alfalfa House produce. The winners will be selected and contacted by Inner West Council, Sydney.

*Click the link below or visit the Inner West Council website for further details on prizes and selection process <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/waste-and-recycling/organics/avoiding-food-waste/inner-west-supper-club>

What are the possible benefits to participation?

We hope to use information we get from this research to develop interventions that will help Australians reduce food waste at their homes. By participating in this study, you will learn about behaviours that could be adopted to reduce food waste in your own household.

What will happen to information about me?

By providing consent, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study. We will keep your data for 15 years. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research study and your personal information will not be disclosed to anyone other than the research team (includes funding organizations) without your permission.

The results of this research study will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be published, in a way such that you will not be individually identified.

What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time before commencement of data analysis. If you want to withdraw, you can do so any time before submitting your responses to the survey without contacting any of the researchers. If you wish to withdraw from the study after the submission, you will be asked to email one of following researchers mentioning the email address you used to register for the survey within 24 hours after submitting your answers and tell them you no longer want to participate.

Dr Gamithri Karunasena: g.gamithri@cqu.edu.au, Chief investigator, Central Queensland University (CQU), Sydney, NSW, 2000

Professor David Pearson: d.h.pearson@cqu.edu.au, Associate investigator, Central Queensland University (CQU), Sydney, NSW, 2000

If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. Unless you say that you want us to keep them, any records will be erased and the information you have provided will not be included in the study results.

What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact any of the following members of the research team:

Research Team Contact Name	Dr Gamithri Karunasena
Position	Chief investigator - CQU
Email	g.gamithri@cqu.edu.au

Research Team Contact Name	Professor David Pearson
Position	Associate Investigator, CQU
Email	d.h.pearson@cqu.edu.au ,

What if I have any complaints about this research study?

This research has been reviewed and approved by The Central Queensland University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or concerns about the research project please email ethics@cqu.edu.au or phone (07) 4923 2603 quoting the following number [HEC 23708] within 24 hours as practicable.