



Building Connections

Schools as Community Hubs

Plain Language Statement

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Building Connections research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

What is this research about?

School buildings are used sparingly outside of school hours such as on weekends and school holidays. However, there is growing interest in creating schools that double-up as community hubs that can serve a broader range of purposes and people. The research project is investigating how to design, build and manage schools that double-up as community hubs.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be invited to a workshop organised by our research team. The workshop will focus on your experiences of schools that function as community hubs. The workshop will be less than three hours long. The workshop may be recorded for research purposes, with photographs, audio recordings and workshop outputs (such as completed worksheets or groupwork activities) retained for use by the research team.

What are the possible benefits?

The project aims to create benefits for school-aged children, Australian communities, cost-savings for the Australian government and environmental benefits due to efficient infrastructure development. There is little benefit to you directly. You may enjoy participating in the workshop but please note that your participation is voluntary and you will not be paid or compensated for your time.

What are the possible risks?

You may be concerned about your privacy. If you wish to participate in the workshop, you can opt to remain anonymous in any publication of the research. This means that your name will not be published, and any personal information that might identify you will be removed. If you chose to have your name published in the research, you must be aware that your comments may be made public. If you feel uncomfortable during the workshop for any reason, you may leave at any time.

Do I have to take part?

No, participation is completely voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you attend the workshop, you may leave at any time.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

If you like, you can be added to the project's mailing list to receive occasional updates on how the project is progressing. At the end of the project, you will be sent a copy of the final report. You may also hear about the project in the media.

What will happen to information about me?

The audio from the workshop will be transcribed, and both the audio and transcript will be stored in The University of Melbourne's centrally managed digital research data storage service along with photographs and digitised versions of workshop materials. Your contact details will not be stored alongside the data from the workshop. Data from this workshop may also be used in future projects that are closely related to this project, or in the same general area of research as this project. Records will be stored for up to five years after the last publication. Once all records are of no continuing value they will be destroyed - electronic files will be deleted, and hard copies will be placed in confidential waste bins.

Who is funding this project?

The project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Linkage Program. The Linkage Program promotes national and international research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community organisations and other publicly funded research agencies. The following organisations are partners in the project:

- Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
- Brand Architects
- Clarke Hopkins Clarke Architects
- South Australian Minister for Education
- The State of Queensland, represented by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact:

Dr Benjamin Cleveland

Learning Environments Applied Research Network (LEaRN)

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Tel: +61 (0)3 90353757

Email: benjamin.cleveland@unimelb.edu.au

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.