



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Researchers:

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Project title:

Play Latitude Schools: National Online School Scan and Toolkit Feasibility Study

HREC Protocol: H26114 | Application ID: BH00166 | Version 2.00 | 27 July 2026

INVITATION

You are invited to take part in an anonymous Charles Sturt University research study about the whole-school conditions that support quality play, recreation, supervision, transitions and other informal parts of the school day.

Please read this information before deciding whether to participate. Participation is voluntary.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study will use the Play Latitude Schools National School Scan to examine how adult school staff perceive the conditions, staff capability and practical supports that make quality play possible. It will also assess whether the digital questions are clear, relevant, manageable and useful.

For this study, quality play is used broadly. It may include active play, games, sport, creative activity, social connection, student-led activity, clubs, quieter regulation spaces and other forms of recreation or informal participation during recess, lunch, transitions, outdoor time and other informal school-day spaces.

The study is not a student program, curriculum intervention, school inspection or staff-performance evaluation. The School Scan is a research and reflection tool. It is not yet a validated benchmark or school ranking.

Why have I been invited?

You may participate if you:

- are 18 years of age or older
- currently work in an Australian primary, secondary, combined or specialist school
- can provide informed consent
- have enough familiarity with recess, lunch, transitions, supervision, outdoor spaces, student support or other informal school-day conditions to answer the questions

Students, parents and carers are not participants.

What does participation involve?

The main activity is an anonymous online School Scan taking approximately 12-15 minutes. You may complete it privately at a suitable time. It asks about:

- whole-school conditions supporting quality play and informal school-day spaces
- staff preparation, professional learning, decision-making and support
- leadership, staffing, resources, workload and sustainability
- strengths, pressure points, supports and realistic priorities
- the clarity and usefulness of the digital process

You will be asked for broad contextual information such as your state or territory, school sector, school phase, broad location, role and experience. You will not be asked for your name, email address, school name, employer name, exact position title or exact postcode.

The webpage may also offer three independent optional activities:

- School Action Plan, approximately 5-8 minutes
- Quick Pulse, approximately 1-3 minutes
- Follow-Up Reflection, approximately 5-7 minutes

You do not have to complete an optional activity. The forms are not linked to identify or track you.

How do I provide consent?

After reading this statement and confirming eligibility, you will be asked whether you consent to participate. Selecting Yes allows you to continue. Selecting No ends the form. Each optional form includes a brief consent confirmation.

Are there risks?

The study is considered low risk. There are no anticipated physical risks. Some questions may cause mild discomfort because they ask about workload pressures, supervision challenges, inconsistent processes or support needs. You may skip any substantive question or close the browser before submitting.

Please do not name your school, students, colleagues or identifiable incidents in open-text responses.

Are there benefits?

There may be no direct personal benefit. The study may help build a national picture of the conditions that make quality play more workable and identify practical areas for future school and system support. You may also find the structured reflection useful.

Will participation cost me anything, and will I be paid?

Participation should not cost anything beyond your time. You will not be paid and no incentive is offered.

Do I have to participate?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. The organisation, network or school leader sharing the link will not be told whether you participate. Your decision will not affect your employment, professional standing, workload or relationship with your school, Charles Sturt University or the researchers.

Can I withdraw?

You may stop at any time before submitting by closing the browser. Once an anonymous response has been submitted, it generally cannot be withdrawn because the research team cannot identify which response is yours.

How will my privacy be protected?

The survey is designed to be anonymous. Qualtrics will be configured so that IP addresses and precise location are not retained in the research dataset. The study does not request your name, contact details, school name or employer.

Broad contextual categories may still create a small possibility of indirect identification in rare groups. The research team will combine or suppress small categories and will not report small cells. Open-text responses will be reviewed and identifying details removed before analysis or quotation.

What will happen to the information?

Responses will be analysed in combined form to examine national patterns, broad subgroup patterns, toolkit feasibility and areas for refinement. Findings may be used in reports, academic publications, conference presentations, professional briefings and future ethically approved research. Participants, schools and employers will not be identified.

Data will be stored securely on Charles Sturt University-approved systems and retained for at least five years in accordance with university requirements.



Who can I contact for further information?

Associate Professor Brendon Hyndman
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Email: bhyndman@csu.edu.au
Phone: (02) 6051 9410

Who can I contact if I have concerns about the study?

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee is responsible for ethical oversight of this project. If you have complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of the project, contact:

The Presiding Officer
Human Research Ethics Committee
Research Integrity Unit
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678
Phone: (02) 6933 4213
Email: ethics@csu.edu.au

Any concerns will be treated in confidence and investigated appropriately.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering this invitation. Please keep or download this information for your records.

