

**Human Research Ethics Committee**

Office of Research Services  
Building K1 Penrith Campus  
Tel +61 2 4736 2835 Fax 61 2 4735 2905

## **Participant Information Sheet**

You are invited to participate in this study which aims to find out why we don't have more universally designed housing in Australia.

### **Project Title**

**Inhibitors and facilitators of universal design in the built environment with emphasis on new-build dwellings: social, political and economic implications**

### **Who is carrying out the study?**

Jane Bringolf, PhD candidate is carrying out the study. The research will form the basis of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Western Sydney under the supervision of Professor Peter Phibbs from the Urban Research Centre and Dr Ingrid Schraner from the School of Economics and Finance.

### **What is the study about?**

The purpose is to investigate why we don't have more housing designed to suit the changing needs of occupants so that if and when they have a disability or experience declining abilities as they age, they don't have to move into care or organise major modifications to their home. The study will seek the opinions of construction industry personnel and home owners about the issues involved in creating and building homes that better suit occupants' changing abilities and lifestyles.

### **What does the study involve?**

The study involves answering a series of questions about the time when you chose your new home and had it built. You will be asked about your experiences with the building company and their response to any special design request you may have made.

### **How much time with the study take?**

It is estimated that it will take ten to fifteen minutes to complete the questions.

### **Will the study benefit me?**

It is not expected that the study will provide direct benefit to you, but it is expected to provide information that will assist the home building industry to design houses that better suit occupants throughout the different stage of life.

### **Will the study involve any discomfort for me?**

There might be a slight possibility that when answering the questions you may recall some unpleasant memories. If you experience discomfort from this, you can choose to withdraw from the study.

### **How is this study being paid for?**

This study is being sponsored by the University of Western Sydney as part of a PhD Scholarship Program.

**Will anyone else know the results? How will the results be disseminated?**

All aspects of the study, including results, will be confidential and only the chief investigator and supervisors will have access to information on participants. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identified in the report. Survey participants can request information about the findings of the research.

**Can I withdraw from the study?**

Participation is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to be involved and if you do participate, you can withdraw at any time without giving any reason and without any adverse consequences.

**Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the chief investigator's contact details. They can contact the chief investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

**What if I require further information?**

If after reading this information sheet you would like more information, contact Jane Bringolf : ph: 0417 231 349; email: [j.bringolf@uws.edu.au](mailto:j.bringolf@uws.edu.au)

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact the project supervisors:  
Prof Peter Phibbs : ph: 02 8833 5902; email: [p.phibbs@uws.edu.au](mailto:p.phibbs@uws.edu.au)  
Dr Ingrid Schraner : ph: 0437 206 012; email: [i.schraner@uws.edu.au](mailto:i.schraner@uws.edu.au)

**What if I have a complaint?**

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Ethics Committee: Approval Number H6886. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel 02-4736 0083 Fax 02-4736 0013 or email [humanethics@uws.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uws.edu.au). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

**Consent to participate**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to sign a Participant Consent Form. If you are participating by accessing the survey on-line via the Urban Research Centre website, your return of the survey is considered as consent to participate.