
Picture Justice Australia

Principal/Teacher Information Statement

Please retain this for your records.

Principal Investigator: Ms Willhemina Wahlin (BMediaComm, BA(Vis&PerformArts(Hons)(GraphicDsgn)), Lecturer in Graphic Design, School of Communication and Creative Industries, Faculty of Arts and Education, Charles Sturt University

Co-Investigator: Mr Christopher Orchard (BA(Multimedia-WebAuth&Dsgn), BA(Multimedia)(Hons), MA(Vis&PerformArts)), Sub Dean (Academic), Faculty of Arts and Education, Lecturer in Photography, School of Communication and Creative Industries, Charles Sturt University

Co-Investigator: Dr Belinda Paulovich (PhD, MVisArtDes(Graph), GradDipVisArtDes(Graph) BVisComm(GraphDes)), Lecturer in Design, School of Design, Faculty of Health, Arts and Design, Swinburne University of Technology

Invitation

Your Year 11 and 12 students are invited to participate in the Picture Justice Australia research study. This study is being conducted by Willhemina Wahlin, Christopher Orchard and Belinda Paulovich. Before you decide whether or not you wish your students to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with your students if you wish.

About Picture Justice Australia

Picture Justice Australia is a joint research project by researchers at Charles Sturt University and Swinburne University of Technology. This pilot study brings the Picture Justice program to Australia for the first time since it was developed in 2014 by the New York-based non-profit organisation, PROOF: Media for Social Justice (<https://proof.org/picture-justice/>). In the U.S., Picture Justice has been run in a number of public schools in Brooklyn, as well as the United Nations International School and Avenues World School in Manhattan. The program includes a range of multidisciplinary, creative workshops that aim to build participants' skillset and how to apply these collaboratively to issues of human rights and social justice.

Picture Justice Australia will focus on the themes of community, citizenry and the processes of democracy. Participants will work collaboratively to produce a range of written and visual content that will become a projected exhibition and printed publication. The 6-day, extra-curricular program will be run on Charles Sturt University's Port Macquarie campus during the July 2019 school holiday period.

What is the purpose of this study?

The researchers are interested in learning more about young regional Australians' ideas and attitudes towards their community, their role within it as citizens, and their involvement in the processes of democracy. For example, previous studies have shown that there is a lower percentage of people aged 18-24 enrolled to vote, when compared with older age groups. However, this research has also shown that many young people see their role as citizens somewhat differently to older Australians, and participate in the democratic process in a range of ways beyond the ballot box.¹ We're keen to understand more about what young regional Australians think about what it means to be part of a community, as a citizen and as a participant in democracy, and to provide them with a platform to share their stories. The research explores whether, through a series of creative, multidisciplinary workshops, students' capacity and confidence to develop and express their ideas are enhanced, and if so, in which ways.

¹ Saha, L.J, Print, M & Edwards, K. (2004). "Youth Electoral Study". Canberra: Australian Electoral Commission. [online: https://www.aec.gov.au/about_aec/Publications/youth_study/youth_study_1/index.htm] Accessed 17 December 2018.

Why have our students been invited to participate in this study?

We are seeking up to fifteen Year 11 and 12 students from the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area to participate in this study. Potential participants must formally apply to be part of the program. A two-stage selection process will assess the visual or written works submitted by applicants: one round by the researchers, the second by a selection of CSU academic staff who have volunteered as project consultants. We welcome all applicants. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and young women are strongly encouraged to apply.

What does this study involve? About the Picture Justice program

Based on the themes of 'community, citizenry and processes of democracy', the Picture Justice Australia program will be run over 6-days in the July school holiday period (Mon-Sat, 8-13 July, 9am-5pm). The program will include the following workshops:

- Design Thinking
- Introduction to Civics
- Ethical interviewing
- Portrait photography
- Image editing
- Narrative development
- Story editing
- Seminar discussion with community leaders (government & non-profit organisations)

What will the participants produce?

Participants will work collaboratively to produce written and visual content based on the themes of the project. This could include stories from the participants, photographic images of the participants (taken by the other participants IF consent is given by participant and guardian), or creative photography that is representative of place. This content will be later designed by the researchers into a projected exhibition and a publication, which will be shared with the Port Macquarie-Hastings community. All participants' names will be included in the final creative work as co-authors (unless they expressly indicate that they do not wish their names to be published - in this case, a substitute name will replace their actual name).

Are there workshop or travel costs associated with the program?

Successful applicants will be automatically provided with a scholarship that covers the cost of the program, including the cost of workshop facilitators, materials and facilities. Transport and associated costs of transport to and from the university each day of the program is the responsibility of the participants and their parents/guardians.

What do participants need to bring?

Lunch and water will be provided on each of the workshop days, but we suggest participants bring morning and/or afternoon tea, and a digital device such as a tablet or laptop. Participants should inform the researchers upon acceptance into the program of any allergies or special needs. Any participant who is required to carry an EPI pen should bring it each day of the program, and **inform the researchers in writing** via the medical information section of the consent form.

What data will be collected?

The researchers will be collecting data in the following ways:

- Online entry and exit (final day of program and 6-months post) surveys completed by participants
- Photographic documentation of the workshops and creative processes
- Occasional video documentation of participant collaboration and processes of ideation and creativity
- Ethnographic field notes (completed by researchers outside of workshop hours to reflect on the program)

How will this data be used?

The researchers will use the data collected when reporting on the research program. This may include academic journal articles, conference presentations and symposiums. Published research and non-identifiable data will be securely shared with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, for the express purpose of assisting with the development of youth programming.

The data will be used in the following ways:

- **Observational field notes:** these will not include participants' names, but will include observations about the participants' experiences, including shifts in behaviour and attitudes in relation to the themes, how ideas were created, how students worked collaboratively, and what were the products of the workshops.
- **Photographs of program workshops:** These will help the researchers to explain how the workshops were structured when reporting on their research. Where these are used in research reporting, identifying features of participants will be blurred out.
- **Videos of workshops:** These will only be used in conjunction with observational field notes as an additional reference for researchers. They will not be distributed or published in research reports.
- **Online surveys:** These help the researchers to understand the participants' experiences, attitudes and ideas and suggestions before and after the Picture Justice program. It gives the researchers some data to compare, so that the effectiveness of the program can be assessed. These will not require participants' names, but will include questions regarding the participants' ethnic background, age, gender and school.

All data collected will be stored securely, according to university research policy.

Are there risks and benefits to my students if taking part in this study?

Every care will be taken to provide a safe and secure environment for participants while undertaking the program at Charles Sturt University, Port Macquarie, including occupational health and safety compliance. However, it should be noted that there is the small risk of injury similar to any classroom scenario.

All researchers and research assistants have Working with Children Checks.

Participants benefit from working with university lecturers that have a range of skills over a 6-day period. The content that participants create will be later shown to the local community via a projected exhibition and publication, which participants can add to their portfolio of work. Students will receive a certificate of participation upon completion of the 6-day workshop program.

How is this study paid for?

This program is funded through a Charles Sturt University Compact Funding grant, with additional funding support from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Any questions?

Our research team will be more than happy to discuss any aspects of the project with principals, teachers, participants and their parents/guardians. You can contact Willhemina Wahlin on the following:

Phone: 02 6582 9369

Email: wwahlin@csu.edu.au

*Thank you for considering this invitation.
This information sheet is for you to keep.*

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee on:

Phone: (02) 6933 4213

Email: ethics@csu.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.