

The following researchers will be conducting the study:		
Role	Name	Organisation
Principal investigator	Alex Donaldson	La Trobe University, Centre for Sport and Social Impact
Associate Investigator	Kiera Staley	La Trobe University, Centre for Sport and Social Impact
Research funder	This research has received funding from Surfing Victoria.	

If you are 14-15 years of age, please read this information with a parent/guardian before continuing.

1. What is the study about?

Surfers are in the water dawn until dusk, 365 days a year and are often first to respond and assist in emergencies. With select Victorian beaches only patrolled seasonally, surfers and recreational water users can assist outside the flagged beaches. Our beaches are one of our biggest assets and we all need to do what we can to make them safe.

You are invited to participate in this study to identify the water safety and rescue procedures that surfers in Victoria perform.

You are invited to participate in this project because your details are on the Surfing Victoria database and we believe you are an active surfer in Victoria.

2. Do I have to participate?

Being part of this study is voluntary. If you want to be part of the study we ask that you read the information below carefully.

You can read the information below and decide at the end if you do not want to participate. If you decide not to participate this won't affect your relationship with Surfing Victoria or La Trobe University.

3. Who is being asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because we believe you are at least 14 years of age and an active, regular surfer in Victoria.

4. What will I be asked to do?

If you want to take part in this study, we will ask you to complete an initial 5-minute online survey to express your interest in participating in the study. This will ask you some basic demographic question (age, gender, postcode, surfing frequency in the last 12 months etc.) and to provide a contact mobile phone number to enable us to send an online survey to your phone every 4 weeks. When you express an interest in participating in this study you will also be asked to create a unique identifier that you will use throughout the study. This will be used to link all your survey responses together. It will not be used to identify who you are.

If you agree to participate in this study, we will send a 5-minute online survey to your mobile phone every month for the next 12 months. This survey will ask you how often you have been surfing in the past 4 weeks and if you have provided any other beach users (surfer and swimmers) with safety information/advice or if you have conducted any safety procedures (e.g. provided first aid or carried out a rescue) in that time.

5. What are the benefits?

The benefit of you taking part in this study is that you will help Surfing Victoria develop an understanding of how many and what sort of safety and rescue procedures surfers perform in Victoria. Surfing Victoria will use the information gathered from this study to develop appropriate safety and rescue training opportunities for Victorian surfers. The expected benefits to society in general are that it will be safer for all anyone participating in beach-related activities in Victoria.

All participants who complete a 4-week survey will have the opportunity to enter a draw to win an UrbnSurf gift voucher valued at \$160. This draw will take place every 4 weeks for 12 months and anyone who has completed a survey in the previous 4 weeks will be eligible to enter the draw. In addition, a major prize draw will be held at the end of the project with the opportunity to win a \$1,000 King Island Surf Safaris voucher. Every participant will receive one entry into the major prize draw for each 4-week survey they complete in the previous 12 months (maximum of 13 entries per participant).

6. What are the risks?

With any study there are (1) risks we know about, (2) risks we don't know about, and (3) risks we don't expect. If you experience something that you aren't sure about, please contact us immediately so we can discuss the best way to manage your concerns.

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Alex Donaldson Centre for Sport and Social Impact	Senior Research Fellow	9479 6620	a.donaldson@latrobe.edu.au

We have listed the risks we know about below. This will help you decide if you want to be part of the study.

- There is a risk that recalling any incidents in which you provided safety advice or first aid, or you performed a rescue procedure for another beach user causes you some distress or discomfort. If you need to talk to someone about this immediately, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or the Beyond Blue support service on 1300 224 636. You may also wish to consider consulting your General Practitioner (GP) for additional support

7. What will happen to information about me?

By clicking on the 'I agree, start questionnaire' button, this tells us you want to take part in the study. Although we will **collect** your mobile phone number and unique identifier containing your birth date and the first three letters of your first name, we will not use this information in ways that will reveal who you are.

We will **store** information about you in ways that will not reveal who you are.

We will **publish** information about you in ways that will not identify you in any type of publication from this study.

We will **keep** your information for 5 years after the project is completed. After this time we will destroy all of your data.

The storage, transfer and destruction of your data will be undertaken in accordance with the [Research Data Management Policy](https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/) <https://policies.latrobe.edu.au/document/view.php?id=106/>.

The personal information you provide will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy laws, any health information collected will be handled in accordance with the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Subject to any exceptions in relevant laws, you have the right to access and correct your personal information by contacting the research team.

8. Will I hear about the results of the study?

If you would like to know about the results of the study please contact Liam Robertson, Marketing & Communication Manager at Surfing Victoria (03 52612907, liamr@surfingvic.com) and request any publicly available information.

9. What if I change my mind?

If you no longer want to complete the questionnaire, simply close the web browser. If you change your mind after clicking on the 'Submit' button, we can withdraw your responses because we link your responses to the unique identifier you will be asked to create when you express an interest in the study. You will be able to withdraw any data you have contributed up to 2 weeks after you have submitted a survey. After 2 weeks all data will aggregated and it may not be possible to identify and remove the data you have contributed.

Your decision to withdraw at any point will **not** affect your relationship with Surfing Victoria or La Trobe University.

10. Who can I contact for questions or want more information?

If you would like to speak to us, please use the contact details below:

Name/Organisation	Position	Telephone	Email
Alex Donaldson Centre for Sport and Social Impact	Senior Research Fellow	9479 6620	a.donaldson@latrobe.edu.au

11. What if I have a complaint?

If you have a complaint about any part of this study, please contact:

Ethics Reference Number	Position	Telephone	Email
HEC20112	Senior Research Ethics Officer	+61 3 9479 1443	humanethics@latrobe.edu.au