
Beach Safety Questionnaire

This project seeks to gain an understanding of beachgoers perceptions of hazards at the beach, with one key aspect examined being swimming hazards such as rip currents. Beachgoers perceptions towards what makes swimming conditions and rip currents dangerous, what they should do if they are caught in dangerous conditions, and whether they can spot dangerous conditions such as rip currents in real life will be investigated. This information will be summarized in a report and passed onto Surf Lifesaving New Zealand (SLSNZ) so they can tailor their education strategies and beach safety messages, leading to beaches being a safer recreational area for all ages in New Zealand. Further analysis of the data gathered will lead to a peer reviewed international journal article which will be publically available. This research is being undertaken by Katie Thompson a geography student at the University of Canterbury.

You have been approached to take part in this study because you are a beachgoer on a beach where rip currents are present.

If you choose to take part in this study, your involvement in this project will involve your participation in a voluntary confidential 10 minute questionnaire.

If for any reason (e.g. past experience of beach hazards), you find any of the questionnaire questions upsetting, please do contact Helpline (ph 1737) for assistance.

Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any stage without penalty while completing this survey. However, once you have completed the survey and placed it in the sealed envelope your results cannot be removed.

The results of the project may be published, but you may be assured of the complete confidentiality of data gathered in this investigation: your identity will not be made public without your prior consent. To ensure confidentiality, the questionnaire asks no questions in which you could be identified from, once the data has been gathered it will be placed in a sealed envelope (by you) and locked up with only SLSNZ and the University of Canterbury having access until the research process is finished. The raw data will then be destroyed on completion.

This data will be used to write a report for SLSNZ followed by an international peer reviewed journal article which will be publically available online. If you wish, a plain language summary can be emailed to you. Please send your email address to kth60@uclive.ac.nz if you would like this.

The project is being carried out as a requirement for a summer scholarship funded by SLSNZ and the University of Canterbury by Katie Thompson under the supervision of Dr Sebastian Pitman and Dr Deidre Hart. Dr Pitman can be contacted at Sebastian.pitman@canterbury.ac.nz. He will be pleased to discuss any concerns you may have about participation in the project.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee, and participants should address any complaints to The Chair, Human Ethics Committee, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch (human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz).