

ACM Check: Identifying asbestos in WA homes

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

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| HREC Project Number: | RDHS-89-15 |
| Project Title: | Developing a validated tool to identify asbestos-containing materials in domestic settings in the Western Australian community |
| Principal Investigator: | Associate Professor Alison Reid, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health |
| Student researcher: | Matthew Govorko |
| Version Number: | 3 |
| Version Date: | 03/MAY/2017 |

What is the Project About?

Asbestos is widely known to cause a number of health issues when individuals inhale significant amounts of asbestos fibres. Asbestos exposure is an important issue in the community due to asbestos having been used in a large number of household and building products before it was banned in Australia. These products can still be found in Western Australian homes and they present a health hazard when they are damaged or disturbed. However, we do not know how much asbestos-containing material is still found in the Western Australian housing stock, what condition these materials are in, and how many people are currently being exposed to asbestos in the home.

Therefore, we have created and tested an application (“app”) for smartphone and tablet devices called ACM Check (short for Asbestos-Containing Material Check) that identifies potential materials in and around the home that may contain asbestos. This study aims to estimate the number of Western Australian households that contain asbestos, determine the most common types of asbestos-containing materials and then describe the condition of these asbestos products. We are also aiming to find out how many Western Australians are at risk of exposure to domestic sources of asbestos. We are aiming for 2000 adults to download and complete ACM Check. The app will contribute towards preventing exposure to asbestos-containing materials by increasing the user’s awareness of potentially dangerous products in and around their home.

Who is doing the Research?

The project is being conducted by PhD Candidate Matthew Govorko, Associate Professor Alison Reid and Professor Lin Fritschi, School of Public Health, Curtin University, with input from the Environmental Health Directorate, Department of Health Western Australia.



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Why am I being asked to take part and what will I have to do?

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a resident of Western Australia, aged 18 years or older, and have either a smartphone or tablet device with internet access. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to download ACM Check from the App Store for Apple devices or from Google Play for Android devices and complete the app once. ACM Check will ask you questions about your house, possible sources of asbestos, the condition of potential asbestos-containing materials, and the likelihood that these materials will be disturbed. It will take anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes to complete depending on the property. Your de-identified responses to these questions in ACM Check will be uploaded electronically via the internet to our database.

Are there any benefits' to being in the research project?

A benefit from participating in this study is that you have access to a free, informative and tested app that will identify asbestos products and increase your awareness and knowledge of asbestos in and around your home. This is also a resource that can direct you towards other websites and organisations which provide information on the safe handling and management of asbestos. We hope that through providing ACM Check we can help prevent Western Australians from being exposed to asbestos fibres within their home by increasing community members' awareness and knowledge of asbestos.

Are there any risks, side-effects, discomforts or inconveniences from being in the research project?

There are no foreseeable risks from participating in this research project.

Who will have access to my information?

The information collected in this research will be non-identifiable (anonymous). This means that we do not need to collect individual names. No one, not even the research team will be able to identify your information. Any information we collect and use during this research will be treated as confidential. The following people will have access to the information we collect in this research: the research team and the Curtin University Ethics Committee.

Electronic data will be password-protected. The information we collect in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for seven years after the research has ended and then it will be destroyed.

The results of this research may be presented at conferences or published in scientific journals. You will not be identified in any results that are published or presented.

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Will you tell me the results of the research?

We are not able to send you any results from this research as we do not collect any personal information to be able to contact you. The overall results of this study will be made available in journal publications and a summary of research findings will be available on the website where the application is located.

Do I have to take part in the research project?

Taking part in this research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project. You do not have to give us a reason. If you choose to stop and withdraw from the study, you simply need to go into ACM Check, press the "Information" tab located in the bottom right-hand corner of the home screen, scroll down to the toggle button, and click on it to switch the toggle to the "off" position. This will stop anonymous data from being sent to Curtin University. If you wish to re-join the study, simply switch the toggle button back to the "on" position. You can do this as many times as you see fit. You will still have full access to ACM Check and all of its functions if you chose not to take part in the study or turn data collection off. If you chose not to take part or start and then stop the study, it will not affect your relationship with the University, staff or colleagues.

If you choose to leave the study after you have completed the survey, we will be unable to destroy your information because it has been collected in an anonymous way.

What happens next and who can I contact about the research?

If you would like further details of this study or if you have any questions relating to your participation, please feel free to contact:

Mr Matthew Govorko

School of Public Health

Phone: 0417 646 323

Email: matthew.govorko@curtin.edu.au

Associate Professor Alison Reid

School of Public Health

Phone: (08) 9266 1361

Email: alison.reid@curtin.edu.au

At the start of ACM Check, available via the links provided, there is a toggle button to indicate you have understood the information provided here in the information sheet. Leaving the toggle button in the "on" position indicates that you agree to participate in the research project and have your information used as described.

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Curtin University HREC. This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). If you have any concerns and/or complaints about the project, the way it is being conducted or your rights as a research participant, and would like to speak to someone independent of the project, please contact: The Curtin University Ethics Committee by telephoning 9266 2784 or by emailing hrec@curtin.edu.au.