**Participant Information Statement**

***Research Study: CheckMyText! A trial of online real-time health literacy text editing software***

**Dr Julie Ayre** (Responsible Researcher)

Sydney Health Literacy Lab (SHeLL)
Faculty of Medicine and Health
The University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

Phone: +61 2 9351 7789 | Email: julie.ayre@sydney.edu.au

1. **What is this study about?**

Researchers at the University of Sydney have created a new online interactive tool that helps health services staff create written health information that is easy to understand. This tool gives users feedback in real-time to help them write more simply and apply health literacy principles.

The aim of this trial is to see how well the tool works. To do this, we will ask participants to simplify some health texts. You will be asked to use the tool or your usual processes. We will then compare findings across the two groups. Some participants will also have the option to take part in focus groups after taking part in the trial.

Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don’t understand or want to know more about.

1. **Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following people:

* Dr Julie Ayre (University of Sydney)
* Dr Carissa Bonner (University of Sydney)
* Dr Danielle Marie Muscat (University of Sydney)
* Professor Kirsten McCaffery (University of Sydney)
* Olivia Mac (University of Sydney)
* Ms Dana Mouwad (Western Sydney Local Health District)

This study is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (Grant Identifier: 2022/GNT2017278).

Researchers JA, DMM, CB, KM are directors of a health literacy consultancy (Health Literacy Solutions Ltd, Pty). The company provides health literacy advice to health services/organisations to support increased access to health information for low literacy adults. Any revenue raised is used to support the development of tools to support health literacy document design. No personal income is received by JA, KM, DMM or CB.

1. **Who can take part in the study?**

We are seeking people in Australia who are:

* **health information developers**
* **health services staff**
* **clinicians**
* **students in fields such as medicine, allied health, or health sciences**

If you are staff, developing written health information should be a part of your role.

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are part of an organisation or group who develops written health information.

1. **What will the study involve for me?**

If you decide to take part in this study, this study has three sections:

1. **Survey 1:** Answer questions about demographics (e.g. age, gender, language spoken at home) and your professional experience (5 minutes). You will then be allocated to intervention (the interactive tool) or control (your usual processes).
2. **Learn to use the tool:** Complete training via Zoom (30 minutes). Participants in the control group can undertake this training after they have completed the trial, and will have access to the tool.
3. **Survey 2 (Revise health information):** Revise three short health texts (about 600 words in total). We will ask you to submit the revised text using an online survey and answer a few more questions about the process. We expect this task will take most people about 40 minutes. **Please use Chrome to complete this task.**

In total we expect these three parts of the study will take about **1 hour 15 minutes**.

In total we expect the study will take one hour of your time. The study is entirely online and can be completed from any laptop or desktop computer.

1. **Can I withdraw once I’ve started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind you can withdraw by emailing Dr Julie Ayre (Julie.ayre@sydney.edy.au). After all data has been collected and results are analysed your data can no longer be withdrawn.

If you choose to withdraw, we will not collect any more information from you. Please let us know at the time you withdraw what you would like us to do with information we have collected about you up to that point.

1. **Are there any risks or costs?**

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

1. **Are there any benefits?**

Participants who complete the trial will receive a $50 gift card. Participants who complete the focus groups will receive an additional $50 gift card.

All participants will have access to Health Literacy Editor training. This is provided during the trial for participants in the intervention group. Participants in the control group can access training after they complete the trial.

1. **What will happen to information that is collected?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information about you for the purposes of this study.

Any information you provide us will be stored securely and we will only disclose identifiable information with your permission, unless we are required by law to release information. To reduce research waste, will also make deidentified data publicly available. We are also planning for the study findings to be published and presented at conferences or webinars. You will not be individually identifiable in these materials.

1. **Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. Study findings will be posted on the [Sydney Health Literacy Lab](https://www.sydneyhealthliteracylab.org.au/the-shell-editor) website. We expect findings to be available from December 2023.

1. **What if I would like further information?**

When you have read this information, the following researcher will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

Dr Julie Ayre, NHMRC Investigator Research Fellow

Email: Julie.ayre@sydney.edu.au,

Phone: 02 9351 7789

1. **What if I have a complaint or any concerns?**

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [2023/276] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007).*

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager

human.ethics@sydney.edu.au

+61 2 8627 8176

***This information sheet is for you to keep***