



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Professor Tania Sourdin
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Participant Information Statement for Research Project: Survey on Judges and Technology

Dear Judge,

You are invited to participate in a survey for the research project identified above, conducted by the University of Newcastle, Australia.

Who are the researchers?

Professor Tania Sourdin – Dean of Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle, Australia.
Dr Brian Barry – Lecturer in Law, School of Law, Technological University Dublin, Ireland.
Amelia Rebellato – Research Assistant at Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle, Australia.

Purpose of research project

The purpose of this research is to have an informed understanding from the Australian judiciary as to the role of technology in their work. This research project is taking place internationally, with judges from different jurisdictions being surveyed. Academics in different countries will draw on and from judge's responses in their research. Judges around the world must grapple with technological change and its impact on their role and the judicial sector, which has only been emphasised by COVID-19. As jurisdictions around the world are adopting technologies in different ways, truly transnational collaborative research projects such as this are necessary.

Why am I being invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate in this study as a member of the Australian judiciary.

Your participation is entirely voluntary

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. Whether or not you decide to participate, your decision will not disadvantage you. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw your participation at any time prior to submitting your survey responses. Please note that due to the deidentification of data, once you have submitted the survey, it is not possible to withdraw your responses.

What would you be asked to do?

Participants will be asked to complete a survey via Question Pro. The survey questions are grouped around the following categories: (1) your judicial post; (2) judicial resources and digital working; (3) the judiciary and technology; (4) working conditions; (5) training and personal development; (6) change in the judiciary; (7) being a member of the judiciary; and (8) 'about you'. Answers are optional to a question in section (6) and the entire section (8).

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to give your consent by clicking a button in response to the question 'Do you consent to take part in this survey?' that reads 'yes'. This consent will be registered on QuestionPro and can be viewed by the research teams.

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How much time will it take?

It is anticipated that the survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

There are no anticipated risks of participation in this project. If you are concerned about any risks of participation in this project, you should raise these concerns with the research team before participating. If you have any concerns whilst completing the online survey, you can skip any question/s that you do not wish to answer, and you can discontinue the survey at any stage. You can also save and continue the survey at a later time. If the survey causes you any distress, please consider accessing free mental health services such as Beyond Blue (1300 22 4636) and Lifeline (13 11 14).

In terms of benefits, the insights that this project delivers will assist in developing an informed understanding from the judiciary as to the role of technology in their work.

How will your privacy be protected?

Your participation and any information collected will be de-identified. The data taken during your completion of the survey will be retained for a period of five years. It will be confidentially stored in electronic format in a password protected folder within the University of Newcastle and on the University's secure cloud server, as per current University Policy: <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>. Access to the data will be limited to the researchers except as required by law.

You will not be individually identified in any reports or publications. All responses will also be de-identified in that names, addresses and other identifying and contact information will be removed from the data.

The privacy statement of QuestionPro may be accessed by following this link: <https://www.questionpro.com/help/privacy-policy.html>.

The results of the research

Once the surveying is complete, the dataset will be used by Professor Sourdin to write articles relating to the Australian judiciary's responses and observations to the survey. An international comparative piece drawing on the international dataset will be gathered internationally will be written by Professor Sourdin and Dr Barry. It is anticipated that the material will be published in a co-authored book and presented at a coming Law & Society Association annual conference.

A summary of the research results will be made available to participants at the conclusion of the project. The summary will be posted on open access research platform, SSRN: <https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/>.

What do you need to participate?

If you would like to participate, please confirm your consent to do so in the survey by clicking the 'I consent to participate in this survey' button prior to beginning the survey. This will be taken as your informed consent to participate and will be registered with the research team.

Further information

If you would like further information, please contact Professor Tania Sourdin on tania.sourdin@newcastle.edu.au or on (02) 4921 5839.

Thank you for considering this invitation.



Professor Tania Sourdin
Dean and Head of Law School, University of Newcastle

Complaints about this research

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research Services, NIER Precinct, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au.