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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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Study Title: Where's your mobile phone? A pilot study

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

My name is Dr Mary Redmayne and I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Population Health Research on Electromagnetic Energy, within the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. My co-investigator is Professor Peter Wiedemann from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany.

The study is open for all adolescents and young women aged 12 to 40. If you are female and in this age group you are invited to take part in the online survey. Please feel free to tell your friends and colleagues about it too.

Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before making a decision.

What is the study about?

The aim of the study is to find out where young women carry their mobile phone. This is with a view to doing a women's health study in future. Our Centre carries out research to find out whether exposure to the radiofrequency energy emitted by mobile phones is related to health issues. We also want to find out about perceived risks/benefits of carrying a phone against the body.

Why have you been invited to take part?

All adolescents and young women aged from 12 to 40 are welcome to take part. We would like as women from as many walks of life as possible to take part.

Possible benefits

Participants will be informed of manufacturers' advice about carrying a mobile phone. Participation is important as there is no existing information on the proportion of young women who carry their phone in locations such as a hip pocket, tucked in the bra, or in a bag. The results will allow us, or others, to calculate the number of people needed for a later women's health study.

What does the survey involve, how long will it take, and what potential risks or inconveniences are there?

The survey involves answering an online questionnaire using Survey Monkey; the questionnaire needs to be completed at one time (i.e. it cannot be saved to continue later), but should not take longer than 15 minutes. It is conceivable that participants may begin to perceive a risk where they have not done so before. If this occurs, they could change the way they carry the phone so the questions are not a risk in themselves.

What about consent and ability to withdraw from the study?

The first page will explain what it is about and what the participant needs to do. She will then be asked to select a Start button if she wishes to participate. Doing so is taken as consent for us to use the data provided.

How will the information that participants give be kept private?

Participation will be totally anonymous. No identifying information will be asked for and there will be no way of linking survey responses back to the participant. During data collection, the data will be stored by Survey Monkey in a highly secure online repository in the US (the same type as that used by USA banks). Once data collection is complete, we will download all the results and store them securely at Monash University, following the University regulations; we will then delete the data from the Survey Monkey repository. Only the researchers named above, and necessary advisors such as Monash statisticians, will see the data which we will have in a statistical table format. Once analysis is complete, results will be submitted for publication in the research literature, and tables and figures of results may be presented in seminars or at conferences. Individual participants will not be identifiable.

The names of groups, schools and tertiary institutes, and organisations who agree to promote this survey among their students, staff and members will be kept confidential. They will not be named or identified in published or presented research findings.

Results

The analysed results will be available on the Monash University website Population Health Research on Electromagnetic Energy which can be found here:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/clinepi/presee.html>

Results will be available for at least 1 year from the time they are posted online. Any participants who may be interested in taking part in a follow-up women's health study (whether or not they have or use a mobile phone), can email mary.redmayne@monash.edu (with 'Women's Study Interest' in the subject line) to register their name, email address and a contact phone number. This will be acknowledged and they will be contacted if and when a follow-up study is undertaken at Monash University. This information cannot be linked

back to survey monkey participation, so participation remains anonymous. Contact details will not be used for any other purpose.

If you would like to contact the researchers about any aspect of this study, please contact the Chief Investigator:	If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research (Project Number:CF14/3998-2014002071) is being conducted, please contact:
Dr Mary Redmayne Phone: 03 9903 0285	Executive Officer Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC) Building 3e Room 111 Research Office Monash University VIC 3800 Tel: 03 9905 2052 Fax: 03 9905 3831 Email: muhrec@adm.monash.edu.au

Thank you for your time and interest.

Mary Redmayne