

TACKLING ECO-ANXIETY IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TREE PLANTING AND EDUCATION

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

30 SEPTEMBER 2022

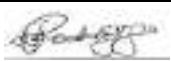
ANNIE NOLAN

Version History

Version No	Issue Date	Nature of Amendment	By
1.0	30/9/2022	Create	A.Nolan

Approval

Approvals are subject to University Governance requirements. Refer to the ITD Project Management Office for guidance.

Name	Signature	Role	Date
Dr Susan Rockloff		Principal Supervisor	30/9/2022

Supervisory Team

With thanks and appreciation to my supervisory team

Name	Role
Dr Susan Rockloff	Principal Supervisor
Dr Carina Anderson	Associate Supervisor
Associate Professor Alex Russell	Associate Supervisor

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide confirmation of Project Milestone 5 Progress Report Data Collection and to provide an update of the progress to date on the overall project as of 30th September 2022.

2 Achievement of project objectives

	Project Objective	Level of Achievement and Evidence
1	Data Analysis: 1 July to 31 December 2022	10 semi-structured interviews have been conducted with participants who attended one of the Tree Planting Days in March and April.
		NVivo transcription of the 10 semi-structured interviews completed.
		NVivo qualitative analysis of semi-structured interview underway.
		Quantitative analysis has been undertaken on the pre- and post-tree planting surveys conducted in March and April 2022.
		Six monthly post-tree planting survey has been developed and ready to send to participants
		Australia -wide survey on eco-anxiety has been distributed

3 Performance against schedule & budget

3.1 Performance against time

3.1.1 Data analysis

The data analysis is being conducted from 1 July to 31 December 2021 and is currently underway.

3.1.1.1 Quantitative data analysis

Data analysis of the pre-and post-tree planting surveys was undertaken and compared to the “waitlist control group” (those participants that had not yet completed a tree planting program) using SPSS. The initial analysis has shown a slightly significant difference in those participants who completed the tree planting compared to the wait list control group. However, due to the relatively small sample of 80 participants, it is necessary to collect more data through further tree planting days. Increasing the sample size means less sampling error and greater rigour in the findings.

2

The Environmental Services Team of the Noosa Council has assisted in organising two further tree planting programs, scheduled for Sunday 6th November and Sunday 13 November at a koala habitat area in Cooran. Recruitment has commenced for these dates. The data collected from this next round of tree planting days will be added to the data collected during the March and April tree planting days to provide a more powerful data set for statistical analysis.

3.1.1.2 Qualitative data analysis

Ten semi-structured interviews have been conducted with participants who attended the March/April tree planting days. These interviews aim to provide a more detailed and personal experience of participants' eco-anxiety, their involvement in the tree planting days and the pro-environmental activities before and after the planting. Five semi-structured interviews were conducted online via the Teams Platform and five interviews were conducted in person. All interviews were recorded with the permission of the interviewee and then transcribed. A thematic analysis of this qualitative data set will identify patterns or themes in the data set that will complement and expand the qualitative data analysis.

3.2 Performance against the cost

The project is currently on budget

4 Australia-wide eco-anxiety project

As part of this study, CQU is funding an Australia-wide eco-anxiety survey which is currently being distributed through Qualtrics. This on-line survey examines eco-anxiety and pro-environmental behaviour across Australia using the same survey questions as the Noosa Tree Planting study. It will provide quantitative data on the level of eco-anxiety across a sample population across Australia, their ecological values and their levels of pro-environmental behaviour. This study will enhance the data collected during the tree planting program and may show how a tree planting programme could be useful across a broader scale.

5 Operational risks

As discussed in the June 2022 Progress Report, further quantitative data is required to increase the statistical power of the sample. Two further tree planting days are currently being arranged. The logistics and costs for these further tree planting days will be covered within the original budget, due to saving in transport costs from the previous tree planting days.

6 Other activities associated with the project

This project has required me to participate in several training programs/online learning. The training was completed in the following areas:

- Qualtrics Survey Platform
- Investigative interviewing techniques
- Qualitative Analysis
- SPSS Statistical Package
- NVIVO Qualitative Analysis