PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study about evaluating online versions of the Home Falls and Accidents Screening Tool or HOME FAST (health professional and self-report versions). The HOME FAST identifies home hazards in the homes of older people that may put them at higher risk of a fall at home. The project aims to make the online platform easy to use and provide information needed by the users of the HOME FAST.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a potential user of the online HOME FAST. We are inviting i) older people who are members of community groups across NSW, and ii) members of professional associations for health professionals likely to use the HOME FAST in their practice. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the study. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don’t understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

✔ Understand what you have read.
✔ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
✔ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

• A/Prof Lynette Mackenzie, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, University of Sydney
Dr. Margaret McGrath, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, University of Sydney
Dr. Sanet Du Toit, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, University of Sydney

This study is being funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Liveable Communities Grant.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

For older people over 65 years
We are inviting you to test the self-report Home Falls and Accidents Screening Tool (HOME FAST) online platform. You will have received a direct invitation or an email invitation from a co-ordinator of a group you are associated with locally, that includes a link to the online HOME FAST. If you click on this link, you can complete the HOME FAST and then decide if you would like to give us feedback about the HOME FAST by a further link to another online survey. None of your data will be identifiable from the HOME FAST or online survey. If you would prefer to give your feedback by participating in a telephone interview or online focus group, about your experience of using the online HOME FAST, these will be recorded, but you will not be identifiable in the data analysis. To participate, you will need to return a consent form. For that we can contact you to organise the interview or focus group.

For health professionals
We are inviting you to test the health professional Home Falls and Accidents Screening Tool (HOME FAST) online platform. You will have received an email invitation from a professional organisation, falls prevention network or primary health network you are associated with locally, that includes a link to the online HOME FAST. If you click on this link, you can complete the HOME FAST for an older person you have visited as part of your clinical practice, and then decide if you would like to give us feedback about the HOME FAST by a further link to another online survey. None of your data will be identifiable from the HOME FAST or online survey. If you would prefer to give your feedback by participating in a telephone interview or online focus group, about your experience of using the online HOME FAST, these will be recorded, but you will not be identifiable in the data analysis. To participate, you will need to return a consent form for that we can contact you to organise the interview or focus group.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

We anticipate that the online HOME FAST will take about 15 minutes to complete and the online survey about your experience will take a further 10 minutes to complete. If you agree to participate in a telephone interview or online focus group, we anticipate that these will take approximately 30 minutes.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I’ve started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate 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 later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this by simply not submitting the online HOME FAST or not submitting an online survey about your experience. If you agree to an interview or focus group and decide not to continue your participation, please let the researchers know when they contact you to organise a time. You are free to stop the interview at any time. Unless you say that you want us to keep them, any recordings will be erased and the information you have provided will not be included in the study results. You may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the interview.
All data collected will be anonymous, and any data collected up to the time of withdrawal cannot be removed. If participating in a focus group, individual responses cannot be removed as this is a group discussion.

(6) **Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

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.

(7) **Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

(8) **What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

If you submit an online HOME FAST, deidentified information will be recorded on a secure database for analysis. If you submit an online survey about your experience of using the HOME FAST this information is also deidentified and will also be stored on a secure database for analysis. If you participate in an interview of focus group, recordings will be transcribed, and the data analysed to identify the main themes. All data collected will be kept confidential and will be deidentified. Findings from this research may be presented at conferences and published in a journal and other reports. Only the research team will have access to this data, and it will be stored in secure computer servers at the University for five years, after which time it will be destroyed.

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

(9) **Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study. If you know anyone who can contribute to the study, please invite them to use the links and participate.

(10) **What if I would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, Lynette Mackenzie will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Lynette Mackenzie (investigator) at Lynette.Mackenzie@sydney.edu.au or on 0422583258.

(11) **Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by ticking the relevant box on the consent form. This feedback will be in the form of a short report.
What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney 2018/827. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

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 using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep