



**MEDICAL AND  
HEALTH SCIENCES**

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## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

Title: Perceptions of a Vaping Website

Principal Investigator: Professor Elizabeth Broadbent

Researcher: Timothy Earl

You are invited to take part in a study that explores the acceptability of a website providing vaping-related health information web site and whether it has any effect on people's perceptions of vaping.

This project is being carried out by Timothy Earl, a master's candidate in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the University of Auckland and Professor Elizabeth Broadbent (Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Auckland), who will be supervising the project.

**It is important that you read this document carefully so that you can make an informed decision about whether you would like to participate.**

**Purpose of the study:** The aim of the study is to explore the acceptability of a website designed to provide vaping-related health information and assess people's perceptions of the health impacts related to vaping.

**Your rights as a participant:** Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw from this research project at any time during the session and until two weeks after participation without giving a reason and without any negative consequences. If you choose to withdraw from the study, your data will be removed. You will be given a copy of this document to keep.

**Eligibility:** We are recruiting participants who are aged 18 years or over, who speak English, who can understand, read, and write in English. You will not be able to participate in this study if you have significant vision impairment, such as blindness. Eligibility will be assessed by completing a screening questionnaire, which will need to be emailed to Timothy ([tear261@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:tear261@aucklanduni.ac.nz)). The screening questionnaire will not be used for purposes other than assessing eligibility, seen by anyone other than the researchers, and will be deleted after screening.

**Procedure:** If you choose to participate and are eligible, you will be required to make an online booking via an email link to attend an in-person laboratory session at the University of Auckland Grafton campus at your convenience. On the day of your scheduled session, you will be welcomed by a researcher involved with the study upon arrival. You will then be required to complete baseline questionnaires concerning relevant demographic and health information, and perceptions towards the health impacts of vaping. You will then be asked to review a vaping website containing key facts and information regarding the use of vapes and associated health impacts. Once you have read through the website and familiarised yourself with the content, you will complete a short quiz to assess your retention of the key facts and information contained within the web site, asked to provide your opinions about the acceptability of the website as a source of health information, and once again required to complete a questionnaire concerning your perceptions of the risks and benefits of vaping. The in-person session will take approximately 30 minutes in total. The study will take place at the University of Auckland's Clinical Research Centre in Grafton. You are more than welcome to bring whānau or a support person to the consultation. You are encouraged to talk with whānau or support people before participating.

**Benefits:** You will have the opportunity to provide your opinion on the acceptability of websites as a resource for delivering health information to the general public. Additionally, as an acknowledgement for giving your time and completing the study, you will receive a \$20 Woolworths voucher.

**Risks and Discomforts:** The study will not involve greater than minimal risk, harm or discomfort than may be encountered in daily life.

**Video Data:** In order for the researcher to review how participants interacted with the website, participants will be recorded (with permission) while viewing the vaping website. The recording will only be accessible to the researcher and the supervisor for the explicit purposes of data analysis. To ensure privacy and confidentiality, this recording will be stored and labelled with your participant number. Data security will be insured by storing all data in password protected files in a University of Auckland approved data storage system (Research Drive) with server back-up.

**Data Storage:** All data collected, such as questionnaires, will be stored in electronic format by the researcher. Data will be stored on a password protected computer and backed up by a server. The access to these files will be restricted to the researcher and the supervisor only. Consent forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the researcher's office at the University and will be kept for a period at least ten years.

**Confidentiality:** All personal information will remain strictly confidential and no material (including video recordings) that could personally identify participants will be used in any

report of this study. To ensure participants identities are kept confidential, participants names will only appear on their consent form, which will be coded with a participant identification number coded P001 to P128. All additional materials, such as questionnaires or video recordings will be labelled with this participant information number. A master sheet containing a list that links participants with the questionnaires will be maintained by the researchers which will be stored in a locked file. After completion of the study, all confidential data, including computer datafiles, will be kept for a minimum period of ten years to allow for publication and analysis, after which time it will be securely and confidentially disposed of. Research publications and presentations from the study will not contain any information that could personally identify you.

**Results:** A summary of the results of this study will be sent to you if you wish. As it takes some time to analyse the results of studies, it may be more than a year after your participation that you receive this information.

**We appreciate the time you have taken to read this invitation. If you have any further questions, please contact:**

**Timothy Earl** (Researcher)

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**Alternative contacts:**

**Dr Elizabeth Broadbent** (Supervisor)

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**Professor Trecia Wouldes** (Head of Department)

Department of Psychological Medicine  
The University of Auckland  
Email: t.wouldes@auckland.ac.nz

**Cultural Support:** If you require Māori cultural support, talk to your whānau in the first instance.

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the

Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at [ahrec@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ahrec@auckland.ac.nz) or at 373 7599 ext 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

“Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC) on 05/08/2024 for three years. Reference number AH27885”