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**Virtual Environments to Study Preventive Health Attitudes – Vaping in Virtual Reality Experiment - Information Sheet**

Kia ora,

And thank you for showing interest in our experiment! This experiment uses virtual reality (VR) to study how people respond to vaping cues. Previous studies have used VR to show that smokers automatically start craving a cigarette when they see cues that are related to smoking (like ashtrays or packages). Because the use of electronic cigarettes or ‘vaping’ is relatively new, little is known yet about vaping as a habit or addiction. With this experiment, we want to learn more about where and when people vape.

If you choose to take part in this study, your will participate in a VR experiment which is run by researchers of the University of Canterbury. You do not need to have any experience with smoking or vaping to participate. However, it is important that you are 18 years or older, not currently under treatment for any mental illnesses, and are not pregnant. Important information about the experiment is given below.

**Location, duration and outline of the VR experiment***Location*.The VR experiment will take place in the vision space at the HIT Lab NZ. This is located at the second floor of the John Britten building on the University of Canterbury campus.

*Duration.* The entire experiment session, including introduction, an induction to VR, a number of questions, and debriefing, will take up to an hour.

*Outline.* On the day of the experiment:

* Please do not to smoke or vape one hour prior the experiment.
* When you arrive at the lab a researcher will be there to welcome you, give an overview of the experiment procedure, and answer any questions.
* The experiment will start with a few questions about your background information; e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, and smoking and vaping experience. This information will be used to compare if our group of participants was representative of the New Zealand population. For example, if only women over 60 from European origin do our test, our findings may not be very relevant to young adult Māori men.
* After the questions, the VR immersion session will start. This session consists of four VR environments. In between these environments you will watch a 360 degree videos of a nature scene.
  + The first VR environment is for you to practice how to use the VR head set and controllers. It will also function as a test to make sure that VR doesn’t give you cybersickness. If the latter is the case, you will not be allowed to carry on with the experiment.
  + After the VR practice has finished, you will be shown a 360 degree video of a nature scene. This is meant to give you a little break and get ready for the next VR environment.
  + Next, the experimental VR experience will start. You will be guided through three different VR scenarios, which will last about 4 minutes each. After each environment, you will watch the 360 degree nature video for two minutes before moving on to the next VR environment. The VR environments will have vaping cues, and you will be asked a couple of times how much you feel like vaping.
* After the VR immersion session, you will be asked to answer a few questions about the VR experience. Then you will be given a 5-minute distraction task, which will be your choice of puzzles or colouring pages. This is meant to bring down any cravings you may have gotten during the VR session. After the distraction task, you will be asked two more questions.
* Finally, the researcher will thank you for your participation and award you with $20 to reimburse travel costs and time.
* **NB** It will be possible to participate in the experiment under Covid Alert Level 2. All surfaces and equipment will be disinfected prior to your arrival. However, wearing a face mask will be mandatory. We will provide single use masks if you forget to bring your own. If you are feeling sick or if anyone you’ve been in contact with is being tested for Covid-19, please cancel or reschedule.

**Risks, confidentiality, and more information**

We do not expect that the study is harmful, but there are two possible risks that you should be aware of. First, there is a chance of you starting to feel queasy while you are in VR. This is called cybersickness, and it is similar to carsickness. It has no serious consequences and usually goes away when you get out of VR. However, we still ask you to be mindful of how you feel during the experiment. If you start feeling sick, please quit immediately.

Secondly, this experiment may make you craving a vape. We have added a distraction task to reduce this craving. If you are still uncomfortable with the idea, please think again if you want to sign up.

While fitting the VR headset, the experimenter may need to touch your head to assist. They will always ask for permission to do so. Also, eye tracking will be used, meaning that cameras in the headset will register what things you’re looking at.

As stated in the consent form, if you decide to take part in this experiment you have to agree to maintain complete confidentiality of all information shared, as well as information related to identities of other people involved. This means that we ask you to please not tell others about what happened during the experiment. This is because if they participate later on, they may respond in a different way because they know what they were going to see and what was going to be asked.

Participation in this experiment is voluntary. You can choose to stop at any point. You do not have to give a reason, and you will still be awarded 20$ if you quit. If you quit, we will remove all your information from our dataset.

If you want, you can find further support by reaching out to:

Te Hā - Waitaha Stop Smoking Canterbury, Telephone: 0800 425 700  
Email: [smokefree@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:smokefree@cdhb.health.nz)

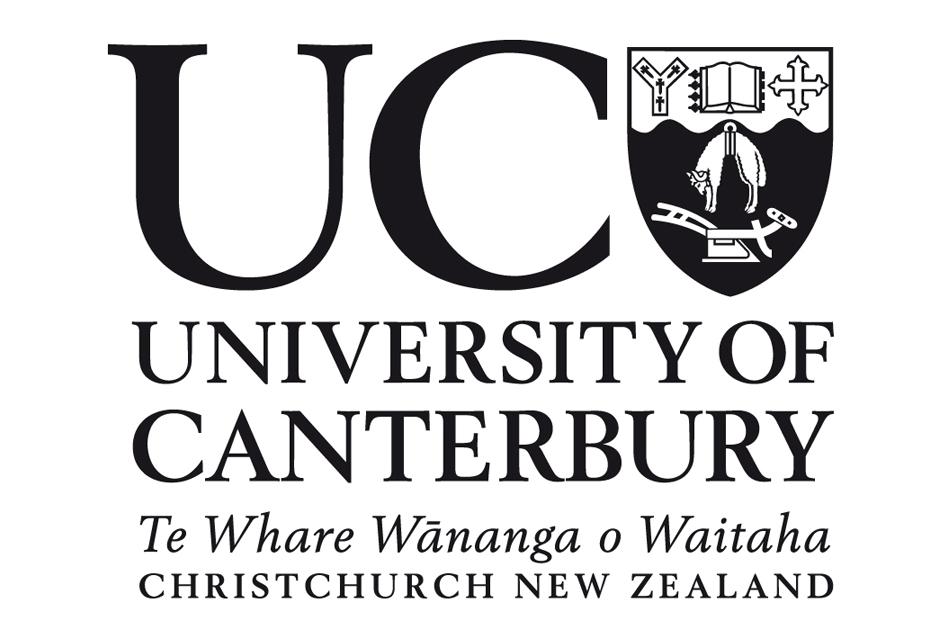
You can also find support on the following website:

**https://vapingfacts.health.nz/help-and-support.html**

The results of the project may be published in aggregated form, such as the mean and variation of responses. The complete (raw) dataset however will be completely confidential. This means that no-one outside of the research team will have access to the data. Moreover, the data is stored anonymously, meaning that there is no way to connect your name or address to any specific set of responses. The data will be password-protected, and saved on university owned devices. Only members of the research team will see and analyse the data.

Our research stems from a collaboration between different departments of the University of Canterbury: the School of Product Design, the Geospatial Research Institute, the GeoHealth Laboratory and the Human Interface Technology Laboratory NZ. The project is led by Simon Hoermann and Melanie Tomintz, who can be contacted at simon.hoermann@canterbury.ac.nz and melanie.tomintz@canterbury.ac.nz. They are happy to discuss any questions you may have about participation in the project.

If you agree to participate in the experiment, you will be asked to complete the consent form on the day that you come to the lab. The consent form is attached for you to read through, if you would like to.

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**Virtual Environments to Study Preventive Health Attitudes – Vaping in Virtual Reality Experiment - Consent Form**

□  I have been given a full explanation of this project and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

□  I understand what is required of me if I agree to take part in the research.

□  I confirm that I have not smoked or vaped for one hour before coming to this study.

□  I understand that participation is voluntary and I may withdraw at any time without penalty. Withdrawal of participation will also include the withdrawal of any information I have provided should this remain practically achievable.

□  I understand that any information or opinions I provide will be kept confidential to the project team members and that any published or reported results will not identify the participants.

□  I understand that all data collected for the study will be kept in locked and secure facilities and/or in password protected electronic form and will be destroyed after ten years.

□  I agree to maintain complete confidentiality regarding other people identities as well as information shared during the virtual environment experiment.

□  I understand the risks associated with taking part and how they will be managed.

□  I understand that I can contact the researchers, Simon Hoermann (simon.hoermann@canterbury.ac.nz) or Melanie Tomintz (melanie.tomintz@canterbury.ac.nz), for further information. If I have any complaints, I can contact the Chair of the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch ([human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz)).

□ I understand that if I am to participate while Covid-19 Alert level 2 is in effect, I will be required to wear a face mask and observe social distancing rules. I will cancel or reschedule if I feel sick, or if any of my recent contacts is being tested for or has been diagnosed with Covid-19.

□  By signing below, I agree to participate in this research project.

Name: Signed: Date: