

## INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM FOR ONLINE SURVEYS

### Making Important Life Decisions (UTS HREC REF NO. ETH20-5196)

#### What is the research study about?

The purpose of this research is to find out the biggest decisions people make in life. You have been invited to participate because you are at least 18 years old.

#### Who is conducting this research?

My name is Dr. Adrian Camilleri and I am an academic at UTS.

#### Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. You must be at least 18 years of age.

#### Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part.

If you decide to participate, I will invite you to describe and categorize the biggest decisions you have made in your life and also share some information about yourself such as your demographic information.

The study should take less than 60 minutes in total and can be completed at any time you like using any device that can connect to the internet (phone, computer, iPad). There are no costs associated with participating in this research project except for your time completing it.

At the end of the study, you will be asked whether you would like to have your results sent to you. This is entirely optional. If you do agree to send your results, then we will save your email address and may reach out to you again in the future in relation to this biggest life decisions project. You are free to have your email address removed from any future communications by contacting [adrian.camilleri@uts.edu.au](mailto:adrian.camilleri@uts.edu.au) at any time or by responding to any emails you receive from us and indicating your preference.

You can change your mind at any time and stop completing the survey without consequence.

#### Are there any risks/inconvenience?

No, there are no obvious risks/inconveniences beyond your time required to complete the study. However, some of the life decisions you recall and describe may be emotional ones. If you are feeling distressed, please consider reaching out to the following services:

- Better Help <https://www.betterhelp.com/>
- HeadSpace (Australia): <https://headspace.org.au/>
- Samaritans (UK): <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (USA): <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- Suicide Prevention Service (Canada): <https://www.crisisservicescanada.ca/en/>
- AASRA Suicide Prevention and Counselling NGO (India): <http://www.aasra.info/>

#### What will happen to information about me?

Access to the online questionnaire is via the Life's Biggest Decisions website, which I have created with the help of my research team and developers. Submission of the online questionnaire/s is an indication of your consent. By clicking the "Take the survey!" button at the Life's Biggest Decisions website you consent to the research team collecting and using personal information about you for the research project. All this information will be treated confidentially.

Your responses will be associated with a unique and random ID (e.g., 1e6327d) and not linked to your name, which we are not collecting. You will receive this unique ID after completing the survey. You can use the ID to return to the Life's Biggest Decisions website and see your results again. Note that at the end of the survey you will be also asked if you would like your results emailed to you. This question is entirely optional. However, if you do provide your email address, then that information will be stored. We will store your user data and survey responses regarding your decisions in different databases on the same server.

Electronic data will be stored behind password-protected servers and computers that only Dr. Adrian Camilleri, his research assistants, and other UTS researchers have access to. De-identified data may also be uploaded to publically accessible academic repositories such as the Open Science Framework website (<https://osf.io/>). In such cases, all email addresses will be removed prior to upload.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission. In general, results will be presented featuring aggregated, group-level. However, in certain circumstances, we may quote you directly. Any such quotes will not be attributed to you specifically.

We will also store your information for future use in research projects that are an extension of this research project. Note additionally that the data may be used in future projects such as a meta-analysis, which combines the results of many research studies. In all instances your information will be treated confidentially and no email addresses will ever be shared.

We plan to discuss the results of the research at academic conferences and publish the results of the research in academic journals, conference papers, blogs, books and on the Life's Biggest Decisions website. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

### **What if I have concerns or a complaint?**

If you have concerns about the research that you think I can help you with, please feel free to contact me at [adrian.camilleri@uts.edu.au](mailto:adrian.camilleri@uts.edu.au).

If you would like to talk to someone who is not connected with the research, you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on 02 9514 9772 or [Research.ethics@uts.edu.au](mailto:Research.ethics@uts.edu.au) and quote this number: ETH20-5196.