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Who needs nature?

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study of how animals and plants impact urban residents' wellbeing in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you completed the *Who needs nature?* Survey online (www.whoneedsnature.com) and you were randomly selected from those who gave their permission to be contacted and invited to a focus group. 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. So it's up to you whether you wish to take part or not.

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.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study being conducted by Lucy Taylor will form the basis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney under the supervision of Associate Professor Dieter Hochuli.

(3) What does the study involve for me?

The study involves a voluntary focus group of adult residents in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand.

The focus group will have up to seven other participants and will be held at a central location in your city. The focus group will take no more than 90 minutes (1 and a half hours). You will be given a range of potential times to choose from. Once you have selected the focus group session that suits you most, please ensure you arrive 10 minutes in advance to the start time. This is to ensure that the focus group starts and finishes on time.

The sorts of questions will be about your preferences and thoughts about nature in your local area. For example, you will be shown images of different park types and asked to discuss why you prefer one or more over the others. Another example question might be about whether you have any positive or negative experiences related to nature in your local area.

The focus group will be recorded for transcription purposes. All transcripts will be anonymous, so your comments will not be able to be identified back to you. Because the transcripts will be anonymous, it means that once you have agreed to participate in the focus group on the day and your comments recorded, they cannot be withdrawn later.

(4) How much time will the study take?

The focus group is estimated to take no more than 90 minutes (1 and a half hours). Once you have selected the focus group session that suits you most, please ensure you arrive 10 minutes in advance to the start time. This is to ensure that the focus group starts and finishes on time.

(5) Can I withdraw from the study?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to participate in a focus group.

At the beginning of the focus group, participants will be asked to sign a consent form. Submitting a consent form is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to signing the consent form. Once you have completed the consent form and participated in the focus group, your responses cannot be withdrawn.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on participants.

A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.

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

Aside from giving up your time and making your way to and from the focus group, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

(8) Will the study benefit me?

All focus group participants will receive a \$30 Visa gift card (Australian participants) or \$30 Prezzy card (New Zealand participants) as a small token of thanks. We cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any other benefits from the study.

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

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(10) 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 and providing an email address. This feedback will be in the form of a brief summary. You will receive this feedback after the study is finished.

(11) What if I require further information about the study or my involvement in it?

If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Lucy Taylor, l.taylor@sydney.edu.au; +61 2 9351 7728.

(12) What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact The Manager, Human Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on +61 2 8627 8176 (Telephone); +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile) or ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au (Email).

This information sheet is for you to keep