**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Homelessness Website Usability Testing in RMIT Course Programming Studio 1**

**Chief Investigators**

Dr Timothy Wiley, School of Computer Technologies, STEM College, RMIT University;

email [timothy.wiley@rmit.edu.au](mailto:timothy.wiley@rmit.edu.au)

**Group member**s:

*Jack Byrnes (s3724931)*

*Raymond Ly (s3903031)*

You are invited to participate in research being conducted by students of the Programming Studio 1 course in the School of Computer Technologies, STEM College at RMIT University. Please read this information carefully and be confident that you understand its contents before deciding whether to participate.

Participation is purely voluntary. Participation in this study does not impact you directly or your assessment in any courses being conducted at RMIT University. If you have any questions about the project, please ask any one of the investigators listed above, by emailing them.

**Who is involved in this research? Why is it being conducted?**

This research is conducted as part of the Programming Studio 1 course. Jack and Raymond are involved in the development of a website that provides information and displays data regarding homelessness in Australia. This research is being conducted to understand how the website functions and how it serves our users.

**Why have you been approached?**

You have been approached because you are a university student within our cohort. Our target userbase are University students studying social science and doing research for their assignment. While you may not exactly fit this description, we will be asking you to play this role and draw on your own experiences as a university student. You are also unfamiliar with our platform and will be able to provide an outside perspective about how our website flows.

**If I agree to participate, what will I be required to do?**

Agreeing to participate will mean that once commenced, we will provide instruction while you will be interacting with a deployed IT based system. You will be asked to think out loud while using the website while being observed by Jack and Raymond. After concluding the tasks, we will then follow up with questions about your experience with our website, which will then conclude our session. Consent will be implied by the return or completion of an anonymous survey.

**What are the possible risks and disadvantages?**

There are no direct risks of physical or emotional harm. However, the subject matter may be personal to you. If you have any concerns, please let us know.

**What are the benefits associated with participation?**

There will be no direct benefits associated.

**What will happen to the information I provide?**

Your response will be stored, anonymously, with other responses.

The results from the analysis of the data will not be published.

It will be used only within the content of the Programming Studio 1 course. Your responses will be stored safely in RMIT secure server that hosts Canvas and the RMIT Microsoft Tennant.

**What are my rights as a participant?**

As a participant in this research, you have the rights to:

* withdraw from participation at any time.
* have any unprocessed data withdrawn and destroyed provided it can be reliably identified.
* have any questions answered at any time.

**Whom should I contact if I have any questions?**

Please contact any of the investigators listed at the beginning of this participant information.

**Yours sincerely**

*Jack Byrnes and Raymond Ly*

I agree to participate.

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Course Coordinator:**

Dr Timothy Wiley, School of Computer Technologies, STEM College, RMIT University;

email [timothy.wiley@rmit.edu.au](mailto:timothy.wiley@rmit.edu.au)

**Programming Studio staff:**

Dr Santha Sumanasekara, Prof Falk Scholer, Rodney Cocker, Dr Halil Ali, Dr Vu Huy Mai

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| The preparation and completion of this Participant Information Form is for educational purposes ONLY. This PIF has been prepared by students of the Programming Studio 1 course as part of coursework for conducting user surveys as part of the student’s education in practices for conducting ethical user research.  This PIF does not form part of any approved ethics project.  This PIF may not be used outside the bounds of the coursework and class activities for Programming Studio 1.  **If you are not a student or staff member of Programming Studio 1, and you are requested to complete this form, please immediately contact the Course Coordinator using the contact details above** |

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| Any complaints about your participation in this project may be directed to the Ethics Officer, RMIT Human Research Ethics Committee, Research & Innovation, RMIT, GPO Box 2476, Melbourne, 3001.  The telephone number is (03) 9925 2251. Details of the complaints procedure are available on the  [Complaints with respect to participation in research at RMIT](http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=2jqrnb7hnpyo) page |