

## **Participant Information Form**

### **Project title: An Experiment in Damage Avoidance**

#### **Name of Researchers:**

This study is being conducted by Andrew Dawson as part of an honours project in the School of Psychological Science at the University of Western Australia under the supervision of Dr Mark Hurlstone.

#### **Invitation:**

You are invited to participate in this study because you are registered on the ORSEE participant recruitment system of the Behavioural Economics Laboratory at the University of Western Australia. You must be over 18 years of age to take part in this study.

#### **Aim of the Study**

Many real world social dilemmas require the cooperation of a group of people in order to avoid a collective risk that will adversely affect all group members. This study examines factors that influence whether or not groups are willing and able to cooperate to avoid such collective risks.

#### **What does participation involve?**

You will participate in a group-based decision making game with five other players. At the beginning of the game, each player will be given an operating fund of \$40, which will be credited to her or his personal account. On each of 10 rounds of play, each player must decide how much of her or his personal operating fund—either \$0, \$2, or \$4—to invest into a collective account for damage prevention. If by the end of the game the total amount invested by all players in the damage prevention account is equal to or greater than a minimum amount then the damage is prevented and each player gets to keep the leftovers or her or his personal operating fund. However, if the total amount invested in the damage prevention account is less than the minimum amount then the damage occurs and each player loses 90% of the remaining money in her or his personal account. All decisions are anonymous. For the purpose of anonymity, each player will be allocated a pseudonym which will be used for the duration of the game. The session will last 60 minutes or less.

#### **Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and does not prejudice any right to compensation which you may be entitled to under statute of common law. At any time before or

during the experiment you may withdraw from the study without reason or justification, in which case your data will be destroyed, unless you agree otherwise. Your data will be stored in a non-identified fashion, meaning that no identifying information will be associated with the data we collect from you in the experiment. Accordingly, you will not be able to withdraw your consent for us to use your data once the study has been completed.

### **Your Privacy**

Your participation in this study and any information you provide will be managed confidentially. Information from this project will be published but your name and identifying details will not be used without your consent. Your data will be stored on a password protected computer at the University of Western Australia for a minimum of seven years.

### **Possible Benefits**

The data you provide will help to identify factors that facilitate or impede cooperation between group members in situations involving collective risks.

### **Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with the research.

### **Reimbursement**

You will be paid in cash a \$10 attendance fee along with the remaining balance of your personal operating fund.

### **Contacts**

Any questions concerning this experiment can be directed to Dr Mark Hurlstone ([mark.hurlstone@uwa.edu.au](mailto:mark.hurlstone@uwa.edu.au)).

Sincerely,

Chief Investigator

Mark Hurlstone

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Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia with reference number RA/4/1/6996, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to [humanethics@uwa.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uwa.edu.au). All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.