

## Participant Information Sheet

Section of Audiology

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences



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### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Project title:** Perception and Willingness to Pay for Tinnitus Treatments

**Principal Investigator:** Assoc Prof Grant D Searchfield (Audiology)

**Master of Audiology Research Student:** Sophie Thomas

#### **Study invitation**

You are invited to take part in a survey which examines people's perception of tinnitus treatments. Whether or not you take part is your choice. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason. However, when the questionnaire is submitted on Qualtrics, withdrawal is not possible as it is anonymous.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you'd like to take part. It sets out why we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks to you might be, and what would happen after the study ends. Your completion of the survey will be taken as consent.

#### **Researcher introduction**

The research project is under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, Grant Searchfield. The data collection will be undertaken by Sophie Thomas, an Audiology Intern (second year Master of Audiology intern) at the Section of Audiology, School of Population Health, the University of Auckland, Grafton Campus. Funding for this study has been obtained from the School of Population Health, University of Auckland.

### **Project description and invitation**

Tinnitus affects approximately 6% of New Zealanders. Those who have tinnitus can experience social and work-related problems. This study will look into how different tinnitus treatments available are perceived by those who have tinnitus, in relation to the severity of their tinnitus. It also aims to investigate how much consumers would be willing to pay these treatments

Volunteers are invited to participate in this research project, which will explore the perception of different tinnitus treatments and willingness to pay for these treatments. You will be asked approximately 60 questions, in total, about your opinions on hearing aids and tinnitus apps.

Participants who take part in the study should be 18 years or older, be able to complete a questionnaire in English and have tinnitus. Participation in the study is voluntary and data is acquired from the completed surveys.

There are no risks to participants in this study, as the survey is online and anonymous. The completion of the survey will benefit those who suffer from tinnitus by understanding how people perceive different tinnitus treatments available. This research may help to improve accessibility of tinnitus treatments to individuals by understanding how much people are willing to pay for them.

### **Project Procedures**

Participants will each be asked to fill out an online survey on Qualtrics, which should take up to 20 minutes. The online survey has 3 sections: demographic information, questions about a tinnitus app and questions about hearing aids. Two videos will also be included which demonstrate how the tinnitus app is used and how hearing aids are used.

### **Anonymity**

Participation in this research study is anonymous and no participant will be individually identified. Submission of the online survey will be taken as consent to participate.

### **Data Storage/Retention/Destruction/Future Use**

During the study, data will be recorded with electronic documentation. Participants will remain non-identifiable throughout the study and published data. Any non-identifiable information that is required for the analysis of results will be stored for 6 years before being destroyed. Data obtained from the online survey will be stored in Qualtrics storage for 6 years.

A summary of the study results can be made available to participants via email if they choose to receive it. There will be a separate link which allows you to fill in your email address if you wish to receive a summary of the results.

## **Contact Details**

Further questions regarding this research project may be directed to:

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For any queries involving ethical concerns, please contact:

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APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE ON 13<sup>th</sup>  
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