
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: Social Cyber Executive Education Program

Chief Investigator

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Description of the study

This project will investigate social cyber awareness in public sector leaders and if it improves through an education program.

This project is supported by Flinders University, Jeff Bleich Centre (JBC) for the US Alliance in Digital Technology, Security and Governance, College of Business, Government and Law, with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Purpose of the study

This project aims to find out:

- the level of awareness that public sector leaders, managers and policy officers have about social cyber and its implications for societal prosperity, trust in government and democratic resilience
- the extent to which an education program can affect social cyber awareness and views about cyber policies
- what elements of the pilot program are most salient for public sector officials
- insights into social cyber policy development

Benefits of the study

The sharing of your experiences will help to strengthen the design and delivery of social cyber awareness programs, which will be important in:

- Equipping public sector leaders and policy officers with the knowledge, skills and mindsets they need in the digital age

- Enabling public sector leaders and policy officers to mitigate potential threats to social prosperity and democratic resilience
- Encouraging and enabling new and better informed policy development

Participant involvement and potential risks

If you agree to participate in the research study, you will be asked to:

- attend a workshop, “The Digital Dilemma”, about social cyber implications for the South Australian Public Sector
- complete a brief questionnaire at the end of the workshop regarding the effectiveness of the workshop and your knowledge of and views on social cyber implications on societal prosperity and democratic resilience

Participation is entirely voluntary.

The researchers do not expect the questions to cause any harm or discomfort to you. However, if you experience feelings of distress as a result of participation in this study, please let the research team know immediately. You can also contact the following services for support:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14, www.lifeline.org.au
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636, www.beyondblue.org.au
- Your agency’s Employee Assistance Program

Withdrawal Rights

You may, without any penalty, decline to take part in this research study. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you may, without any penalty, withdraw at any time without providing an explanation. To withdraw, please contact the Chief Investigator or you may just refuse to answer any questions / not participate in exercises at any time. Any data collected up to the point of your withdrawal will be securely destroyed.

Data recorded during group discussions may not be able to be destroyed. However, the data will not be used in this research study without your explicit consent.

Confidentiality and Privacy

Only researchers listed on this form have access to the individual information provided by you. The workshop facilitator will review comments about the effectiveness of the training in order to adapt the effectiveness for the future workshops. Privacy and confidentiality will be assured at all times. The research outcomes may be presented at conferences, written up for publication or used for other research purposes as described in this information form. However, the privacy and confidentiality of individuals will be protected at all times. You will not be named, and your individual information will not be identifiable in any research products without your explicit consent.

No data, including identifiable, non-identifiable and de-identified datasets, will be shared or used in future research projects without your explicit consent.

Data Storage

The information collected may be stored securely on a password protected computer and/or Flinders University server throughout the study. Any identifiable data will be de-identified for data storage purposes unless indicated otherwise. All data will be securely transferred to and stored at Flinders University for seven years after publication of the results. Following the required data storage period, all data will be securely destroyed according to university protocols.

How will I receive feedback?

On project completion, a short summary of the outcomes will be provided to all participants via email. In addition, a report will be published for the Hewlett Foundation.

Ethics Committee Approval

The project has been approved by Flinders University's Human Research Ethics Committee (Project Number 4686).

Queries and Concerns

Queries or concerns regarding the research can be directed to the research team. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Flinders University's Research Ethics & Compliance Office team via telephone 08 8201 2543 or email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet which is yours to keep.