Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth Program Evaluation

Invitation
As part of the P.A.R.T.Y. Program we would like to invite you to participate in the evaluation of the program. This is to tell us if the program has had an impact on you and your thoughts on risk-related behaviour.

The study is being conducted by:

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Before you decide whether or not you want to participate in this study, it is important that you understand what your participation will involve and why the research is being done. Please take time to read the following information and discuss it with others if you wish.

1. Why are we doing this study?
The purpose of this study is to find out if the P.A.R.T.Y. program changes how you understand and respond to risky behaviours that may increase your chance of being injured.

2. Why have I been invited to participate?
You are able to participate because you are aged between 14-16 years old and are attending the P.A.R.T.Y. Program at Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

3. What if I don’t want to take part in this study?
Being in this study is entirely voluntary; it is totally up to you whether or not you participate. Should you not want to participate or if you subsequently decide to withdraw from the study, there is no penalty of any type and you will still be able to participate in the P.A.R.T.Y.
4. **What does the study involve?**

If you choose to participate in the study, you will be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. Participation in the study will commence with your attendance to the PARTY Program and continue for a 3 month period. The study involves completing 3 questionnaires, pre-program and post-program on the day and again at 3 months distributed by your teacher to fill out during school time. These questionnaires are on risk-related behaviours and your conception of these.

*NOTE: If you are attending a program in Term 3 or 4 and will be going to a separate college please provide an email or postal address on the consent form so that the 3 month questionnaire can be sent to you.*

5. **Are there risks to me taking part in this study?**

The study is completely anonymous and questions within the questionnaires are not sensitive, there are no foreseeable risks to you if you participate.

6. **Will I benefit from this study?**

Involvement in the study will not provide direct benefit to you specifically but results will be used to help us know if the P.A.R.T.Y. program actually works and improve programs for students in the future.

7. **Will taking part in this study cost me anything, or will I be paid?**

Participation in this study will not cost you anything and you will not be paid.
8. How will my confidentiality be protected?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers in this study will have access to information about participants. This information will be held securely at The Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

Your confidentiality will be maintained by;

- Your name will not be placed on the questionnaires you complete
- Allocating a number to you that will record all your questionnaires instead of your name.
- Once you have completed the 3 questionnaires the list linking your name to your number will be destroyed so all of your answers will then be anonymous.

9. What happens with the results?

Results of the study will be submitted for publication, and may be presented at professional conferences. Individual participants will not be identifiable in any published findings or presentation. Results will be compared to other national and international programs.

10. What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before I decide?

When you have read this information, and discussed the evaluation with your family, the P.A.R.T.Y. Coordinator is available to discuss it with you and any queries you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact her on (02) 5124 2638.

11. Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?

Should you have any problems or queries about the way in which the study is conducted, and you do not feel comfortable contacting the study staff, you may contact the ACT Health Directorate Human Research Ethics Committee Secretariat, on 02 6205 0846 via acthealth-hrec@act.gov.au. Any complaint that you make will be treated in confidence and appropriately investigated. You will also be informed of the outcome.
Thank you for taking the time to consider this study.

If you wish to take part, please sign the attached consent form.

This information sheet is for you to keep.