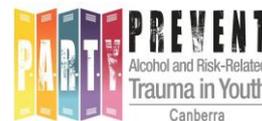

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The P.A.R.T.Y. Program...

The **Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth** or P.A.R.T.Y. Program is a dynamic, interactive injury prevention and health promotion program designed for senior high school students. The P.A.R.T.Y. Outreach Program is designed to show students first hand some of the tragic consequences that can occur if they participate in risk-taking behaviour, as well as the choices they can make to avoid trauma and injury.

The Program aims to show the students the possible consequences that can and do happen to people who make risky choices. We would like to help students recognise risk and make informed choices about activities and behaviours in the future.

What happens during the Program?

If your child is asked to attend the P.A.R.T.Y. Outreach Program, they will spend a half day with various trauma nurses, Allied health specialists and volunteers that care for trauma patients from Canberra Health Services.

Through DVD and PowerPoint presentations, interviews with patients and real-life clinical scenarios, they will be exposed to the painful journey of a trauma patient. Students will learn about trauma injuries, and have hands-on experience with some of the equipment used in trauma care and rehabilitation.

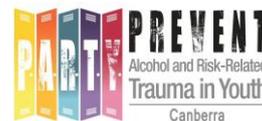
At the end of the session, they will meet a trauma survivor. The trauma survivor will talk about the choices and events that led to their injury. They will also tell students about what their lives are like now. There will be an opportunity to ask the injury survivor questions and learn what life is really like after an injury.

What can I do if I feel overwhelmed?

It is quite usual for students to find parts of the Program difficult for various reasons. Students may feel uncomfortable or confronted by things they see or hear- **this is normal**. However, if students feel they are becoming overwhelmed during the day and want some time out, or to speak to someone about how they feel, there will be people that can help your child.

Staff providing support are experienced advanced practice registered nurses and allied health professionals with expertise working with young people recovering from traumatic injuries. Once the student feels they are ready, they will be offered the choice to carry on in the program or discontinue with the support of attending school teaching staff.

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Other useful information for parents/guardians...

Some common questions are:

Q: What happens if my child is physically or emotionally overwhelmed by the Program content?

A: All care has been taken to ensure that the Program, whilst confronting, is physically and emotionally manageable by students of the age attending. However, procedures are in place to care for any student who becomes overwhelmed during the day. These include Standard Operating Procedures for illness (including fainting or dizziness), or emotional trauma (panic attacks, feeling overwhelmed, becoming very upset), as mentioned previously.

Q: Is there anything my child needs to do to prepare for the day?

A: Yes- they will need to eat breakfast. The program can be confronting and students who eat breakfast have been shown to be better prepared to deal with the program content.

I still have questions about the program...

If you still have questions about your child's involvement in the program after reading through the information pack please contact the teacher at the school responsible for the P.A.R.T.Y. Program liaison.

Alternatively, you can contact the P.A.R.T.Y. Program Coordinator directly:

P.A.R.T.Y. Program Coordinator

Phone: (02) 5124 2638

Email:

P.A.R.T.Y.Canberra@act.gov.au

Thank you for your time.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program team.

****Child refers to your biological child or a child for whom you are responsible as a guardian.**