

National study of adolescents' use of tobacco, alcohol and other substances

Cancer Council South Australia is conducting a survey at Cabra. The survey is about behaviours some adolescents may do, and aims to find out how common these behaviours are. The sort of things the survey covers are: smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol, use of legal and illegal drugs, sun-related behaviours and diet. Students will also be asked about their attitudes towards using different substances and their experience of school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has approved the study, which is part of a national survey of secondary students. The results of the survey will be used to develop education programs aimed at tackling these problems among young people.

Cabra has agreed to participate in the study. Members of the research team will be coming to the school to conduct the pen and paper survey next Wednesday 30 August. The survey is confidential and anonymous. Students are told **NOT** to write their names on the questionnaire. Students will return their completed questionnaires directly to the researchers.

Students from about 56 schools throughout South Australia will be surveyed. The research team has randomly selected all schools involved with the study. There is no special reason for including Cabra in the study. Four classes from the school will be surveyed. There is no special reason for including any child in the sample.

I am writing to ask for your help by allowing your child to participate in the survey.

For your child to participate in the study, your permission is needed. Please indicate on the form attached whether you agree or do not agree to your child participating in the study and return the completed form to Student Services. **Your child will only be asked to participate in the study if you give your consent.** If your child does not wish to participate she/he will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the study at the time of the survey.

Any information provided in the survey is completely confidential and will only be used for research purposes. No school or student will be identified in the data set or in any reports published from the study.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the survey, please do not hesitate to call Tania Plueckhahn, email tplueckhahn@cancersa.org.au, phone 8291 4268.

This project has been approved by Cancer Council Victoria's Human Research Ethics Committee. Therefore, should you allow your child to participate, if you have any complaints or concerns about the manner in which this research is being conducted, Ms Cathy Schapper, Executive Officer of the Human Research Ethics Committee, tel: (03) 9514 6318, email cathy.schapper@cancervic.org.au.

In view of the importance of this project as part of the continuing effort to improve the health of our young people, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Helen Riekie

Deputy Principal: Student Wellbeing and Leadership

Please fill out the form on the adjoining page and return it to Student Services by Friday 25 August.

Please indicate if you agree or do not agree for your child to participate in the survey.

I **AGREE** to let my child participate in the survey.

Student's name: (please print) _____

Student's Home class _____

Your name: (please print) _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

OR

I **DO NOT AGREE** to let my child participate in the survey.

Student's name: (please print) _____

Student's Home class _____

Your name: (please print) _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return the completed form to Student Services by Friday 25 August.