



## Participant Information and Consent

Researchers: Prof Margaret Hellard, A/Prof Mark Stoove, Dr Megan Lim, Ms Elise Carrotte

### 1. Introduction

You are invited to take part in this research project because you are aged 15 to 29 years and have expressed interest in participating in this survey via an advertisement on Facebook or a referral from a friend. The project aims to monitor sexual health and risk behaviour in young people in Victoria.

This Participant Information provides information about the research project. It explains what is involved to help you decide if you want to take part.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a friend, a relative or one of the research staff. Please make note of the details below, which you can contact if you want to know more before going ahead with the survey:

Project coordinator: Elise Carrotte

Phone number: 03 8506 2365

Email address: [elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au](mailto:elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au)

Participation in this research is voluntary (if you don't wish to take part, you don't have to).

If you decide you want to take part in the project, you will be asked to consent to completing the survey. In doing so you are telling us that you:

- understand what you have read;
- consent to take part in the research project;
- consent to be involved in the procedures described;
- consent to the use of your personal and health information as described.

A copy of this Participant Information will be made available for download on our project [web page](#).

### 2. What is the purpose of this research project?

The purpose of this project is to investigate sexual behaviour and knowledge, alcohol and other drug use and other lifestyle behaviours in young people in Victoria. We know from past research that young people in Australia are at significant risk of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) such as chlamydia, alcohol and other drug-related harm, and other health outcomes. Since 2005 we have conducted an annual behavioural survey at the Melbourne Big Day Out and since 2015 this survey is available online.

We will ask participants about their sexual and drug taking behaviour and measure their knowledge of STIs. This will be compared to responses from previous surveys conducted at the Melbourne Big Day Out to determine if knowledge and behaviour is changing over time. Other questions will be

asked on topics such as mental health, pornography use and perceptions about crystal methamphetamine use. Some questions will be used to develop an anonymous identifier to help link data in subsequent surveys.

### **3. What does participation in this research project involve?**

Participation in this study involves completing a questionnaire today about sexual health and alcohol and drug use, which is expected to take you 20-30 minutes to complete. In addition to this, you have the opportunity to consent to being contacted for future Burnet research projects by giving us your email address.

### **4. What are the possible benefits?**

Possible benefits to you include the receipt of referrals to websites which contain information regarding sexual health and drug and alcohol use. You also have the opportunity to win a \$250 Coles Group gift voucher by completing the survey.

### **5. What are the possible risks?**

You may feel uncomfortable answering some of these questions; however you are free to not answer any question you don't feel comfortable answering.

If you become upset or distressed as a result of doing this survey, the researcher involved in the maintenance and monitoring of this survey is able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Any counselling or support will be provided by staff who are not members of the research team. Please make note of the details below, which you can contact if you become upset or distressed:

Project coordinator: Elise Carrotte

Phone number: 03 8506 2365

Email address: [elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au](mailto:elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au)

### **6. Do I have to take part in this research project?**

Participation in any research project is voluntary (if you do not wish to take part, you do not have to). If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at a later stage.

If you decide to withdraw, please notify a member of the research team as soon as possible. This notice will allow that person or the research supervisor to inform you if there are any special requirements linked to withdrawing. If you decide to withdraw, your survey data and contact information will be destroyed.

Your decision whether to take part or not, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or the Burnet Institute. You can withdraw by contacting the project coordinator by phone or email.

### **7. How will I be informed of the final results of this research project?**

The results of the questionnaire will be accessible via the Burnet Institute website at the completion of analysis (expected to be five months after the survey is closed) at the [web page](#). You will also be emailed a copy of the results if you provide us with permission to do so. Results will include summary data of all participants only; no individual will be able to be identified.

## **8. What will happen to information about me?**

Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you is optional and will remain confidential. Identifying information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law (we think it is unlikely, but we must provide confidential information if the courts or police legally require us to do so). It is possible that, in answering some of the questions in the survey, you may give us information about your involvement in illegal activities. You need to keep in mind that such information could be used against you in a court of law. As mentioned above, if you feel uncomfortable about a question you do not have to answer it.

All data collected will be extracted from LimeSurvey, password protected and stored on a secure network drive at the Burnet Institute to ensure only the investigators have access to these files. To maintain confidentiality, data collected with identifying information (i.e. contact details or email addresses for future studies) will be stored separately from the survey responses. If you do choose not to be contacted for future research projects or to receive the study results, then indicate so by selecting the appropriate option when asked.

To further ensure your privacy, we would also recommend that you delete your cookies and browsing history if you are using a shared or public computer to complete this survey. You can do this by following the instructions via these links:

For Firefox: <https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/delete-browsing-search-download-history-firefox>

For Internet Explorer: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-AU/internet-explorer/delete-manage-cookies#ie=ie-11>

For Google Chrome: <https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95589?hl=en>

In any publication and/or presentation related to this project, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified – summary data only will be reported.

All survey data collected will be retained for seven years following the conclusion of the study and then destroyed.

## **9. Can I access research information kept about me?**

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to access the information collected and stored by the researchers about you. Please contact one of the researchers named at the end of this page if you would like to access your information.

Furthermore, in accordance with regulatory guidelines, the information collected in this research project will be kept for at least seven years. You must be aware that as the information collected is de-identified, access to information about you may not be possible.

## **10. Is this research project approved?**

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The Alfred Hospital.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)* produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

## **11. Who can I contact?**

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. Therefore, please note the following:

**For further information:**

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact the principal researcher Dr Megan Lim on 03 8506 2403 or Ms Elise Carrotte on 03 8506 2365 or [elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au](mailto:elise.carrotte@burnet.edu.au)

**For complaints:**

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact:

**Name:** Emily Bingle

**Position:** Research Governance Officer, Research & Ethics Unit, The Alfred Hospital

**Telephone:** 03 9076 3619

I am aged 15-29 and consent to participate in this research.

- Yes
- No