PARTY is about making doctor’s clinics work for young people.

By asking the opinions of young people (14 to 24 years old) attending clinics in Melbourne, and around Victoria, we hope to reduce some of the barriers experienced by young people when going to the doctor and ensure that health services better meet their needs.

If you have any questions regarding the PARTY Project please contact:

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Why PARTY?

Primary Health Care

INFORMATION FOR GENERAL PRACTICE STAFF

PARTY Research Team:

Dr Lena Sanci, Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty, Ms Brenda Grabsch, Assoc Prof Kelvin Hackley, Associate Professor Helen Choo (Associate Professor, Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne); Assoc Prof Jane Pirkis (School of Population Health, University of Melbourne); Dr Ross Parker (Dept of Health Sciences, Griffith University, Queensland); Prof Alan Shiell (Dept of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary, Canada).

Funded by: AHMAC (Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Group) and APHCR (Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute)
A team at the Primary Care Research Unit (Department of General Practice) at The University of Melbourne is currently recruiting general practices to participate in the Prevention, Access and Risk-Taking in Young people (PARTY) Project.

The PARTY Project is being conducted to explore how doctors and nurses can give the best possible health care to young people (14-24yo), particularly for those who may be taking risks with their health. The aim is to assess the effectiveness of a screening and counselling intervention in preventing, or reducing, health risk behaviours in young people attending general practice.

At what stage is the Project at?

In late 2006 we conducted a successful Pilot Study which has enabled us to fine-tune our methodology so we can now embark on the full randomised controlled trial with 40 practices and 1,500 young people.

How we would protect the privacy of you and your patients?

The information provided to us by patients and staff:

- Will NOT have any names on it anywhere
- Will ONLY have a code number on it
- Will NOT be seen by doctors, nurses, colleagues, parents of patients or anyone else

If I said “yes”, what would I have to do?

For the General Practice Staff (including receptionists, practice managers or other non-medical staff) there are three levels of involvement in this project:

1) Practice audit and staff interviews

We will conduct two audio taped interviews (~30mins) and two focus groups (~60mins) involving staff from the practice. Additionally, we plan a one-day visit to observe how the practice operates in relation to young people’s health.

2) Training

Staff will be invited to participate in training in adolescent health care practice including clinical and medico-legal aspects as well as creating a “youth-friendly” practice.

3) Involving young people

During consultations, the doctor or nurse will inform eligible young people about the project, and ask their permission for the researchers to contact them to invite their participation in the project.

How will my participation in PARTY benefit this practice?

- Your participation in the PARTY pilot will improve access, health care and health outcomes for young people visiting your practice
- All practice staff will have access to quality training in adolescent health and GPs can earn 30 Category 1 RACGP QA & CPD points
- Practices will receive support from the research team in expanding staff knowledge and research skills
- In recognition of the time and staff commitment required, the practice will receive a financial contribution ($1,000) for its participation in the project
- In addition, we hope that the research outcomes will contribute to evidence-based practice and policy changes in health care for young people across Australia.