The PARTY Project was officially launched on Friday October 28th, 2005, at the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne. Lollies, balloons and streamers provided a ‘party’ atmosphere with guests from academic, clinical, and policy spheres, plus young people and parents. After mingling and refreshments, Dr Lena Sanci (Chief Investigator) provided an overview of the PARTY Project.

Mr Andrew Higgs from the PARTY Young People’s Working Group also spoke, presenting his reflections on issues confronting young people and highlighting the relevance of the PARTY project. Members of the project’s Policy Implementation Committee were also able to interact, contributing ideas and exchanging information.
PARTY PROGRESS

The PARTY Project is now gathering momentum with staff in the planning and preparation stages. Keeping theoretical perspectives in mind, issues around practice nurse involvement, measures of attitude and behaviour, plus intervention design are currently being fine-tuned in anticipation of the Pilot phase which will probably commence mid-2006. Three general practices (a community health centre, an urban practice and a rural practice) will take part in the Pilot before the project is finally rolled out across around 50 general practices in urban and regional Victoria.

LOCAL PARTY TEAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Dr Lena Sanci (Chief Investigator) is a Senior Lecturer and an NHMRC Public Health Research Fellow with a special interest in adolescent health. Lena will be on maternity leave from the PARTY project from January to July 2006 but plans to keep in touch whilst she is away.

Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty (Chief Investigator) has widespread experience in general practice based research and brings to the Party project a broad knowledge about practice nurses (a key element in the PARTY Project design). Kelsey will maintain a watching brief on the PARTY Project whilst Lena is on leave.

Ms Rhian Parker (Lecturer) has extensive experience in qualitative research methods and has been interviewing key informants for the practice nurse aspects of the PARTY project.

Ms Brenda Grabsch (Research Fellow) has worked on a wide variety of research projects and will be the PARTY Project Coordinator.

Ms Verity Newnham (Research Assistant) brings considerable knowledge from the youth policy arena to the study. Verity will be involved in a diverse range of day-to-day PARTY activities.

PARTY Contacts

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The staff on the PARTY project would like to offer their very best wishes to Lena who has gone six months maternity leave to spend some special time with her first baby and husband Peter. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!