2010 is a doubly exciting year for the PARTY Team. Our last four practices started their PARTY 1 involvement in February and our re-engagement with our early practices has commenced (see Page 2).

**Practice recruitment completed**

The PARTY Project has completed its practice recruitment with forty practices on board. It is fantastic that so many practices and their staff have committed to PARTY and have been so willing to become involved in the research processes - surveys, training and patient recruitment.

**Baseline results for PARTY 1**

The baseline measures of the 14-24 yo patients from all practices are completed. We are currently preparing a journal article for publishing the results which will provide interesting insights into the kinds of psychosocial health issues facing young people who visit general practice.

**Practice visits**

Lena Sanci and Andrew McCoy have been out and about visiting our early PARTY 1 practices and providing feedback data which has been of great interest to practice staff. Expect to hear from us in 2010 or, if you have recently joined PARTY, by early-mid 2011. We look forward to providing the feedback for your practice and believe that you too will find it very informative.

These visits have also provided a forum in which to discuss PARTY 2; already there is lots of interest in this further opportunity to contribute to improving youth health in Australian general practice.

All the PARTY stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE PRACTICES</th>
<th>YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practices: 40</td>
<td>Pre-intervention: 389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Practitioners: 94</td>
<td>Post-intervention: 755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice nurses: 41</td>
<td>3 mth follow-up: 538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice support staff: 71</td>
<td>12 mth follow-up: 303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you PARTY practices...

To all our PARTY practices we express our sincere thanks for taking the PARTY journey. Our goal, throughout the Project, has been to support the practices to ensure that their research participation was manageable and rewarding. We recognise the importance of working together, as a team, within the realities of the general practice setting, in order to enhance health care access and outcomes for the young people in our community.
PARTY Principal Investigator, Dr Lena Sanci, was recently a co-leader of a Plenary Session at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine conference held in Toronto, Canada (April 7-10). Her presentation entitled "Youth Friendly Health Services, Art or Science?" was very well received and stimulated lots of discussion with delegates at the meeting.

Lena presented youth health from the perspective of its historical context and the World Health Organisation guidelines around youth friendly care i.e. Available & Accessible; Acceptable; Equitable; Appropriate; and Effective. She then focussed on screening for psycho-social health risk behaviour as a key example of youth friendly practice. From her talks with other researchers it was clear to Lena that the PARTY Project is at the cutting edge of youth health in primary care.

PARTY 2 — Up and running

PARTY 2 is up and running! Over the past couple of months we’ve had the rewarding experience of taking results from PARTY 1 back to practices. They have been delighted to receive the feedback and have found it interesting and engaging. So far, we’ve visited ten practices, and have another four scheduled for coming weeks. We’re very pleased that four practices have already committed to PARTY 2.

As we’ve been revisiting the practices we’ve explored the meaning that they’ve found in their data; it’s been great to give back to the practices information that is pertinent, fresh and something that they might never otherwise access. GPs have told us that it’s been interesting to see the statistics that reveal the extent of the particular health issues and risky behaviours of which they’ve been aware.

Typically practices can expect to hear from us when we’ve completed the 12 month follow-up interviews with the young people from the practice – that is about a year after your young patients were recruited to PARTY after their consultation.

As we follow our research pathway we will continue to deliver useful information to you - by working together as a team we hope the results will ultimately see improvements in the care of all young people in Australia, as policy recommendations are made and implemented.

Our PARTY practices, practice staff and patients are part of an important and unique endeavour in Australian primary care - we look forward to making a difference.

Award for PARTY trainer Helen Cahill

Helen Cahill is the Deputy Director of the Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne. She has a background in health education, drama, English teaching and curriculum writing for health education programs. Helen has pioneered an approach to working with young people to help coach health professionals, medical students and Diploma of Education students in communicating well with young people. Helen has had an instrumental role working with Lena Sanci to train the doctors and nurses in the PARTY Project intervention practices.

And now for the great news........Helen’s PhD thesis entitled “Learning Partnerships: the use of poststructuralist drama techniques to improve communication between teachers, doctors and adolescents” has won the 2009 American Alliance of Theatre and Education Distinguished Dissertation Award which will be presented at the Alliance’s conference in San Francisco in August this year.

Our sincere congratulations to Helen for this prestigious award and, of course, our appreciation for her contribution to PARTY.