

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

What does the study involve?

This is an online survey that will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. You will be asked questions about your knowledge about hepatitis C and STIs, as well as questions about alcohol and other drug use, sexual practices and sexual health.

Who is being asked to take part?

You are eligible to participate in the survey if you:

- are 16 to 26 years old, and
- live in New South Wales.

Consent

If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to give your consent to participate before starting the survey. Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with the Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) or the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

How is my confidentiality protected?

This is an anonymous survey. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission, excepted as required by law. In any publication arising from this study, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

What risks and benefits are involved if I participate?

We do not anticipate any risks associated with your participation in this study.

The survey results will help to improve health information and education for young people. Also, at the end of the end of the survey you will be provided with feedback about your responses to questions about hepatitis C and STIs. This feedback could benefit you and your health.

Do I receive anything for participating?

If you complete the survey and provide your email address, you will be placed in a prize draw with a chance to win one of 20 x \$50 iTunes gift vouchers.

How do I withdraw from the study?

You can exit the survey by simply closing your browser window. Although you can exit the survey at any time, you will not be able to withdraw your responses from the study after submitting them online. As this study is anonymous it will not be possible to identify which responses were provided by which participant.

How do I find out the survey results?

The survey results will be posted on the survey website (www.project1626.net) and the CSRH website (<http://csr.org>). We will also present findings to community organisations and at conferences, and publish findings in journal articles and a report. A summary of the results can be provided to you if you supply an email address on completing the survey. Email addresses will not be linked to individual responses to maintain your anonymity, and will be deleted after sending you the study's findings.

Information and support services

There are a number of organisations which provide information and support for hepatitis C, alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, and other issues that may be distressing you. The contact details of these organisations are listed below:

- The Hepatitis Helpline provides information, advice and support to people affected by hepatitis C. 9332 1599 (Sydney) and 1800 803 990 (regional/rural NSW).
- The Alcohol Drug Information Service (ADIS) provides support, information, advice, crisis counselling and referral to services. 9361 8000 (Sydney) and 1800 422 599 (regional/rural NSW).
- The NSW Sexual Health Infoline provides free and confidential sexual health information 1800 451 624 (NSW only).
- Kids Helpline is a counselling service for Australian children and young people aged between 5 and 25 years. If you would like to speak to somebody about something that is distressing you, please phone 1800 55 1800.

There are also several websites that offer valuable information:

- Information about hepatitis C: www.hep.org.au
- Information about alcohol and other drugs: www.yourroom.com.au
- Sexual advice delivered via SMS to young people: www.sextxt.org.au
- Expert information on emotional, practical and relationship issues: www.yoursexhealth.org
- STI information for gay men: www.thedramadownunder.info and www.whytest.org

How do I make a complaint?

Complaints may be directed to the Ethics Secretariat, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY 2052 AUSTRALIA (phone 9385 4234, fax 9385 6648, email ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be investigated promptly and you will be informed of the outcome. Please quote the following reference number in any contact: HC13035.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the study or your participation, please feel free to contact us. You can email us at project1626@csr.org or contact Prof Carla Treloar, Dr Joanne Bryant or Dr Philippe Adam at CSRH on (02) 9385 6776.