



Burnet
reach for the many

Participant Information and Consent

Researchers: Associate Professor Megan Lim, Prof Margaret Hellard, Dr Caitlin Douglass, Ms Sarah Eddy, Ms Ana Orozco, Dr Cassandra Wright, Ms Desi Ariwinanti, Dr Stephanie Munari, Dr Anna Power, and Dr Lindi Masson.

1. Introduction

You're invited to be part of this research project as you're between 15 and 29 years old and have shown interest in participating through an online ad or a friend's recommendation. The project aims to keep track of sexual health and risky behaviour in young people in Victoria.

This information tells you about the research project. It explains what's involved so you can decide if you want to take part.

Please read this carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding, you might want to discuss it with a friend, a relative, or one of the research team. Here are the contact details if you want more information before taking the survey:

- Project coordinator: Ana Orozco
- Phone number: 03 9282 2111
- Email address: ana.orozco@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:

[Burnet Sex Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll](#)

2. What is the purpose of this research project?

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 you about your sexual behaviours and use of alcohol and drugs. We'll also measure how much you know about STIs (sexually transmitted infections). This will be compared to responses from previous surveys conducted online to determine if knowledge and behaviour are changing over time. Other questions will be asked on topics such as mental health, pornography use, e-cigarettes (i.e., vaping), STI partner notification and Bacterial Vaginosis.

3. What will I be doing in this research project?

You will be completing a questionnaire about sexual health, alcohol and drug use, and other health topics. It should take you about 20 minutes to complete. Also, you can provide your email address to enter the prize draw, receive a summary of the results or be contacted about future Burnet research projects. Providing contact information is optional, and separate from your survey responses, as the survey is anonymous.

4. What are the possible benefits?

You will have the opportunity to win **\$250** (gift vouchers or bank deposit) by completing the survey. Also, you will have access to websites with useful information regarding sexual health and drugs and alcohol.

5. What are the possible risks?

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

If doing this survey makes you feel sad or worried, our team can set you up with counselling or support from someone who's not part of the research crew. You can reach out to the contact listed below if you need help:

- Project coordinator: Ana Orozco
- Phone number: 03 9282 2111
- Email address: ana.orozco@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 pull out from the project at a later stage.

If you decide to stop participating in the project, please someone from the research team know as soon as possible, and they will tell you if there are any extra things you need to do. If you ask us, we'll delete all your survey answers and contact details.

Your decision to take part or not, or to take part and then withdraw, won't 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 find out about the results of the research?

You will be able to access the results summary on [Burnet Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll's website](#) once the analysis is complete. The summary should be available around five months after the survey is closed.

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 REDCap, a secure web application for managing surveys. Data will be 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 (like 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 "no" option when asked.

To further ensure your privacy, we recommend 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:

- [Firefox](#)
- [Internet Explorer](#)
- [Google Chrome](#)

Non-identifiable data will be analysed and interpreted by Dr Stephanie Munari and Ms Desi Ariwinanti for their PhD degrees. Non-identifiable data from the survey may be used by other postgraduate research students to obtain a degree. 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. If you would like to access your information, please contact one of the researchers named at the end of this page.

Additionally, 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 Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee. This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023) 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 inquiry. Please take note of the following:

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:

- Complaints Officer
- Office of Ethics & Research Governance, Alfred Health Telephone: 03 9076 3619

Please quote the following project number: 326/08

For further information:

If you want any further information concerning this project, you can contact Ana Orozco

- Project coordinator: Ana Orozco
- Phone number: 03 9282 2111
- Email address: ana.orozco@burnet.edu.au