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Participant Information Sheet – Participating Schools (Parent or Caregiver)

LENScience Healthy Start to Life: Adolescent Education Programme

Principal Investigator: Jacquie Bay, Director, LENSscience.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

My name is Jacquie Bay, I am Director of LENSscience, a specialist science education unit in the Liggins Institute at the University of Auckland. I am writing to you regarding the *LENScience Healthy Start to Life Adolescent Education Programme*. Your child's school has been invited to become a LENSscience Partner School and is taking part in this project which aims to find out whether learning modules in schools which link to the work of New Zealand scientists can help students and their families understand more about the work of scientists, and factors influencing health and well being for New Zealand communities.

This means that teachers and scientists from LENSscience and the Liggins Institute are collaborating with teachers from your child's school in the teaching of a module of work within the school's learning programme. This may include for each class in the project, a trip to the Sir John Logan Campbell Classroom at the Liggins Institute where they will work with specialist equipment and meet with scientists. The project is funded by the National Research Centre for Growth and Development and hosted by the Liggins Institute at the University of Auckland. Because your child's class is participating in this project, you and / or your child are being invited to take part in the research.

What does participation involve for students?

Should you agree to your child participating in this research, this will involve them in answering two questionnaires during this year, each taking about 15 minutes to complete. The questionnaires will be at the start of the learning module, and then 3 months after the learning module. The research team teachers will also need to be able to look at the work that your child completes during this learning module. They will not be assessing this work, simply reading it so that they can see what the students have done. They may wish to make a copy of sections of your child's work for later reference. If this was the case, your child's name would be removed.

At the completion of the module of work in school, your child may be selected for a 15 minute interview at school where they will be asked to talk to a LENSscience teacher about their answers to the questionnaires. With your permission and the agreement of your child, their responses will be digitally recorded. Your child has the right to ask for the recording to stop at any time. Their interview will be transcribed by a professional transcription service or a member of the research team. The person doing this work has signed a confidentiality agreement to ensure all information is kept secure.

What does participation involve for parents or caregivers?

Should you agree to participate in this research, this will involve you in answering two questionnaires, each taking about 15 minutes to complete. The questionnaires will be timed to occur before and after your child's class participates in the learning module and will seek to understand the value of this learning module from a parent / caregiver perspective.

Up to 10% of participating parents and caregivers will be selected for a 15 minute interview at a later date. With your permission, this interview would be digitally recorded. You would have the right to ask for the recording to stop at any time. The interview would be transcribed by a professional transcription service or a member of the research team. The person doing this work has signed a confidentiality agreement to ensure all information is kept secure.

All questionnaires and interview recordings will be kept in a secure file at the Liggins Institute and will be destroyed after a period of 6 years. Your name, your child's name or the schools name will never be used in reports written about the research.

Participation in this evaluation of the programme is voluntary and participants may withdraw from the research at any stage up until October 1st, 2012. Assurance has been obtained from the school Principal and teachers that participation or not will not affect relationships with the school for parents or caregivers and/ or grades for students.

If you agree for you and / or your child to be a participant in this research as outlined above, please fill out the attached consent form and return it to your child's teacher. If you do not consent to your child being a participant in this research, they will still undertake the same programme of learning as the participants; however no data will be collected from them.

If you have any queries or wish to know more about this research you may contact me directly:

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Alternatively, you may contact:

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For queries regarding ethical concerns please contact:

The Chair, University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, Tel. 3737599 ext 83711

Yours sincerely



Jacque Bay
Director, LENSscience