

Schoolies Survey Volunteers



We are looking for research volunteers!

DRUG ARM is looking for people to help us administer the 2009 Schoolies' Study. We would really appreciate your time and participation, and would like to hear from you SOON!

This survey is important as it informs the first comprehensive study of drug use and risk taking behaviour and the experience of young people at Schoolies. This is critical to inform the community and services who are concerned about the impact on the individuals, the various Victorian host communities, businesses and families.

2009 is the first year of this study in Victoria, but it is allied with a 12-year study in Queensland, where already clear trends are emerging. We have applied for Ethics Committee clearance from the Alfred Hospital, and are working with the Department of Human Services and academic collaborators, and will aim to disseminate the information widely, allowing the community to better cope with the issues that are raised in the survey.

On a practical level:

- DRUG ARM will have teams at Schoolies from **Thursday November 26th to Monday November 30th inclusive** for this research.
- The locations for this study will be:
 - a) Cowes at Phillip Island
 - b) Rye on the Mornington Peninsula
 - c) Lorne/Torquay on the Surf Coast
- Research shifts will be between 5pm and 10pm. This will involve intercepting young people, asking them to complete a voluntary, anonymous survey on the spot and hand it back to the researcher. Researchers will operate in pairs for safety.
- Research volunteers will need to be able to transport themselves to the appropriate location, but we will consider supporting accommodation for those who do 2 or more evenings.
- Researchers will need to attend a training/briefing session prior to commencing their shift.
- Researchers will start and finish their shifts at the designated research shelter at each location. It will be essential to sign in on arrival and then sign off at the end of each shift.
- At the end of each shift, volunteers meet the coordinator to sign off, return survey forms, IDs and T-shirts (all provided by DRUG ARM).

What you need to be a research volunteer:

- An interest in research and in young people
- A valid Blue Card/Working With Children Check
- To be 18 or over
- A photo (preferably jpeg format, emailed to us, to produce ID card)
- Attendance at the briefing/training session (details to be confirmed)
- A considered, non-judgemental and compassionate attitude
- Adherence to the Volunteer Code of Conduct

If you would like to participate, or have any questions, please contact Caroline at DRUG ARM on email: carolines@drugarm.com.au or 07-3620 8811 (business hours). Once you have registered your interest, we will contact you with more information. We look forward to hearing from you!