

Rural School Based Prevention.....

What is the P.A.R.T.Y. Program?

Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) is a trauma prevention program for high school students aged between 15 and 19 years of age. The aim is to reduce the over representation of youth in trauma statistics. P.A.R.T.Y. usually occurs in the hospital environment with presentations and demonstrations from Health Professionals. It seeks to give participants a snapshot of the possible traumatic and often preventable consequences of risk-related behaviour and to build awareness of risky behaviours that can lead to traumatic injury. Due to the popularity of the P.A.R.T.Y. Program dates are usually booked out within minutes of them being released. This year we have decided get the party message to more students in Queensland by commencing the rural P.A.R.T.Y. Program.

Is Rural School Based P.A.R.T.Y. Program the same as the hospital Program?

No not exactly. Whilst the key message remain those of choice, risk and consequence and are delivered by health/emergency service professionals and patients, the program is delivered in a much shorter time frame only 3.0hrs compared to 6 hours in the hospital environment. The School Based Program has been successful within the Brisbane Metropolitan area so we are now trialling this format in the rural area with the hope to spread the P.A.R.T.Y. message to the youth of these regions.

What does the Rural School Based Program include?

The Rural School Based P.A.R.T.Y. Program will include a talk from the Trauma Clinical Nurse Consultant about Alcohol & Trauma and also include information about choices and consequences of risky behaviour. The students will then be broken into smaller groups for interactive activities and discussions from a variety of health and emergency service professionals. Students will get to feel what it might be like to have serious disability, learn some basic first aid, and have discussions regarding some myths related to alcohol and discussions about road safety. At the end of the Program students will meet an injury survivor who will talk about their life and experiences now they are disabled.

Does this Program work?

It has been shown that exposing young people to the possible traumatic consequences of risk related behaviour will have an impact on their perceptions and the choices they will make in the future (Banfield, 2011 – full article available on-line or by request from program staff) We will be asking all students that have consented to participate in an evaluation process which will be a questionnaire. This will help us to compare results with our in-hospital program and also allow us to compare the rural and metropolitan students ideas and perceptions.

What will students need to do to attend the Rural School Based P.A.R.T.Y. Program?

As the Program is being held at the school they attend they will just need to turn up on the day. Students and parents will need to have read the information and sighted the consent form. **If both parents and students answer yes to all questions on the consent form then it does NOT need to be returned to the school.** If any questions on the consent is No the form will need to be completed and returned to school. Students will be asked to complete an evaluation form at the beginning and the end of the day to determine if the Rural School Based P.A.R.T.Y. Program has made a difference to their attitudes and/or behaviours related to risk and trauma.

Is there a cost to attend the School Based P.A.R.T.Y. Program?

No, there is no cost to the school; we will be using the school as the venue to present the Program. Thanks to the sponsorship of AAMI and The Department of Transport and Main Roads we are able to present this Program at no cost to the school.

Testimonials from School based Programs

“...I would definitely recommend the Program to my friends...it has changed my outlook on life and makes me understand just how lucky I am”

Student – Year 11

“...It will make teen’s re-think their behaviours and choices towards certain things. It makes me appreciate my parents and family and it opened my eyes towards real life situations” **Student – Year 11**

“...Very Professional and informative – a program every student should participate in”

Teacher – Year 12

“...The P.A.R.T.Y. Program is without doubt the best in terms of confronting youth with the consequences of risky behaviour and changing their attitudes...”

Police Inspector

If you would like more Information on the P.A.R.T.Y. Program:

Please contact:

Jodie Ross – P.A.R.T.Y. Program Coordinator

Email: party@health.qld.gov.au

Phone: 0400 702 055 or

36460864

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