



REDUCE RISK - INCREASE STUDENT KNOWLEDGE
www.rrisk.com.au

Invitation to Attend RRISK 2011

Dear Principal

This year we celebrate our 13th Anniversary of the RRISK program in the Far North Coast and the 5th year in the Mid North Coast. RRISK aims to provide Year 11 students with the skills, attitudes and knowledge needed to make informed decisions about driving, alcohol and drug use, risk taking behaviours and safe partying.

Research published in *Pediatrics*, November, 2009 investigating the benefits of young driver education has shown that young drivers who attended the RRISK program had a 44% reduced risk of a car crashes.

This is a joint initiative by the Catholic Education Office Lismore, Department of Education and Training, NSW Health Northern Clinical Support Division, Lismore, Ballina, Tweed, Coffs Harbour and Kempsey Councils, RTA, NRMA, Southern Cross University NSW Police and NSW Ambulance. The intersectional RRISK committee and associated partners are committed to reducing the risks for young people

One of the key activities each year has been the free one-day seminars where students are taken out of the school environment and presented with valuable, credible information which supports the PDHPE curriculum. The students are also confronted with a 'real life' crash scenario which incorporates the most common experiences of the emergency service officers when attending crash scenes. The key messages of the seminar are *Plan Ahead, Know the Facts, Make Informed Decisions and Look After Your Friends*.

The seminars do not take the place of curriculum-based drug and road safety education; however they do enhance these school based programs. The RRISK seminars complement the PDHPE syllabus strands of HSC Core 1 and Preliminary Option First Aid. They also support *Crossroads*, *Your Choice*, the Pastoral Care resource for Years 11 and 12, *Mindmatters*, and the REDI (Resilience and Drug Education) resource for Upper Secondary, *On the Edge*.

All secondary schools from throughout the North Coast will be invited to attend. Seminar dates and venues are:

Tweed Heads	Civic Centre	10, 11	November
Lismore:	Southern Cross University	15, 17, 18	November
Port Macquarie:	Panthers Auditorium	22	November
Coffs Harbour:	Southern Cross University	24, 25	November

For student supervision we require one teacher to accompany each group of 25 students to the day's activities and also to support peer facilitators in running workshops. Students are required to wear their school's sports uniform on the day to allow active participation in all workshops.

We only invite Year 11 students as a greater percentage of them have an "L" or "P" licence and they are more receptive to RRISK messages as there is a "need to know" by this age group. Year 11 students are also more responsive to the safe partying messages due to their increased social interaction.

The students' seminar day will include Paul Dillon from Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia. He will also present the professional learning session in the evening for teachers, health care professionals and parents.

We would like to once again invite students from participating schools to be trained as peer facilitators to work with their peers on the seminar days. We invite you to start identifying two students for each group of 25 students from your school to lead the workshops. The students will be trained by the Committee members from the Education sector. If you are attending RRISK, please advise us of your Preliminary examination dates to assist in scheduling training dates.

To support and inform parents we will provide you with a series of newsletter inserts to be included in school newsletters to inform parents in the lead up to RRISK seminars.

We believe that the RRISK project has value to the whole community and especially to those involved in parenting and caring for young people. I have also forwarded this letter to your Parent and Friends or Parent Forum to seek their support in encouraging student participation and funding support for transport, if required.

Expressions of interest from schools to participate in the program are now invited. Unfortunately, there will only be 500 places per day, available for participants to take part in the seminars, so early booking will be essential.

To secure your bookings, please complete the attached form and return it to Sue Hetherington, a member of the RRISK Committee, at your earliest convenience, but before Friday 29th April 2011.

Kindest regards and travel safely,

Sue

Sue Hetherington
Drug and Road Safety Officer
(On behalf of the RRISK Committee)





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**Tweed Heads Civic Centre
10th & 11th November 2011**

**Southern Cross University, Lismore
15th, 17th, 18th
November 2011
Panthers Auditorium, Port Macquarie
22nd November 2011**

**Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour
24th & 25th November 2011**

Expressions of Interest to Participate

School: _____

The anticipated number of students from this school who will be attending the seminars:

Year 11: _____

Preferred day of attendance (please tick one)

TWEED HEADS

Thursday 10th November Friday 11th \November

LISMORE

Tuesday 15th November Thursday 17th November

Friday 18th November

PORT MACQUARIE

Tuesday 22nd November

COFFS HARBOUR

Thursday 24th November Friday 25th November

Our Preliminary exam dates are: _____

Contact person (RRISK Coordinator): _____

Principal: _____

Date: _____

Please complete this form and return to Sue Hetherington
at the Catholic Education Office
Fax (02) 6622 5794