Ethics Approval No. HREC 11274

### PARENT (OR GUARDIAN) INFORMATION STATEMENT

The CAP Study

Dear Parent / Guardian,

You are invited to permit your child to participate in a study which is currently being run by the University of NSW. <Insert School> has agreed to be involved in this study, which aims to evaluate a substance use prevention intervention, known as the CAP (Climate and Preventure) intervention. The CAP study combines two effective prevention programs - *Climate Schools* and *Preventure* with the aim of reducing substance use and associated harms in students. The CAP study is the first international trial of this comprehensive approach to prevention.

Each participating school has been randomly assigned to one of four study groups. This type of group allocation is called cluster randomisation, which allows for the four groups to be compared over time to evaluate the efficacy of the programs. If you permit your child to participate in the study, your child will be asked to complete a questionnaire which will ask general questions about their personality, behaviour, and the activities they engage in. This questionnaire will include questions on alcohol, drug use, and other risky behaviours and should take no longer than 40 minutes. All information the students provide will be strictly confidential. Students will also be asked to complete a similar survey 6 months, 12 months, 24 months, and 36 months later. They will receive a $10 iTunes voucher for each questionnaire they complete. If students complete all five questionnaires they will go into a draw to win an iPad.

All students will also be asked to complete the computer-based *Climate Schools* program. This program consists of twelve 40-minute sessions designed to teach alcohol and cannabis knowledge to adolescents with the aim of minimising substance use and related harms. The *Climate Schools* program will be run in Terms 1 and 3 as part of the Personal Development/Health classes for Year 8 as it has been developed to address learning outcomes from the NSW PDHPE syllabus. In addition, some students will also be invited to take part in the manualised *Preventure* program, designed to provide adolescents with relevant coping skills with the aim of reducing substance use and associated harms. The *Preventure* program comprises two group sessions which will take place after school hours with the school’s full support. These two group sessions will be carried out by Registered Clinical Psychologists and will run for 90 minutes each.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with your child will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or except as required by law. We plan to publish and present the results at relevant conferences and in refereed journals. In any publication, information will be presented in such a way that your child will not be able to be identified. In addition, a summary of the findings will be made available to you through your child’s school.

Complaints about this study may be directed to the Ethics Secretariat, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, 2052 AUSTRALIA (phone 9385 4234, fax 9385 6648, email: [ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au)). Any complaint you make will be investigated promptly and you will be informed of the outcomes. Your decision whether or not to permit your child to participate will have no effect on your relationship with your school or The University of New South Wales. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. There is no guarantee of benefits by participating in this study.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Nicola Newton or Professor Maree Teesson on 9385 0333 or the email below and they will be happy to answer them. You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

Kind regards,

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Dr Nicola Newton,

Research Fellow, UNSW [nickien@unsw.edu.au](mailto:nickien@unsw.edu.au)

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

### PARENTAL (OR GUARDIAN) CONSENT FORM

The CAP Study

**After reading the information sheet, if you DO wish for your child to participate in the study then *you do not need to do anything further*.**

**However, if you DO NOT wish for your child to participate in the study then please sign and complete this form.**

**In the event that you have any difficulties with, or wish to voice concern about, any aspect of your child’s participation in this study, you may contact Dr Nicola Newton on (02) 9385 0333 or** [**nickien@unsw.edu.au**](mailto:nickien@unsw.edu.au)**. The privacy of your contact will be ensured.**

**Please tick**

1. I **DO NOT** give consent for my child to participate in the above study. 🞏

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**Name of Parent Signature**

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**Name of Child Participant**

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**School** **Date**