



PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER - SURF COAST YOUTH CENSUS

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the Surf Coast Youth Census, that your child is invited to participate in and which we will be conducting at school by all year levels at in the coming weeks.

About the Youth Census

To coincide with International Youth Day on 12th August, Council launched its Surf Coast Youth Census in partnership with Youth Gurus, a local youth focused social enterprise. The census aims to better understand young people aged 10 – 25 who live within the Surf Coast Shire. It will look at their health and wellbeing, challenges they face, and their interests. The study will also delve into the impacts that COVID-19 has had on young people.

“We’re aiming to hear the voices of 2000 young people across the shire from the hinterland to the coast in what will be the largest collection of young people’s opinions ever completed in Surf Coast Shire.” - Surf Coast Shire Mayor, Councillor Libby Stapleton.

What are the benefits?

The findings of the census will be publicly available and will support organisations, the community and the Surf Coast Shire Council to better understand young people across the shire and inform future action plans, programs and services for young people.

What will my child be asked to do and how will results be reported?

Students will be asked to complete the Youth Census (a 20-25 question survey) that correlates to their age (10-14, 15-19 and 20-25) that have been codesigned by young people with age appropriate questions. The Youth Census results for our students will be reported back to the school in an aggregate form throughout the survey period. The shire-wide Youth Census data and reports will be accessible at surfcoastyouthcensus.com.au

How is my child’s confidentiality protected?

The safety and privacy of your child is our highest priority. The questionnaires are anonymous. IP addresses are not recorded. A reputable platform is used to record and store the data and all data will be deidentified before being released. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child’s responses is protected at all times.

Options for participation - Participation in the Youth Census is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the questionnaire, please opt out via email to your school: erin.wright@education.vic.gov.au. Please do so before Friday September 3rd, stating that you wish to opt out of your child’s participation, along with their name and year level. If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, we will take it that you give your consent for your child to participate in the Surf Coast Youth Census.

A copy of the survey that we are asking your child to complete is available at www.surfcoastyouthcensus.com.au

Yours sincerely,

Erin Wright

College Principal

