



School of Education  
University of New England  
Armidale NSW 2351  
Australia  
Fax: 61 2 6773 2445  
Email: [education@une.edu.au](mailto:education@une.edu.au)  
[www.une.edu.au/education](http://www.une.edu.au/education)

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS

*NOTE: This page remains with you for your records.*

### Research Project:

#### *The Australian Science Enrolment Project*

*Dear parent or guardian,*

Your child is invited to take part in a research project looking at students' attitudes and enrolment choices towards their different subjects, particularly Science, in secondary schools. The research is to be conducted between 2014 and 2017. My name is John Kennedy and I am conducting this research as part of my PhD in the School of Education at the University of New England. My supervisors are Dr Terry Lyons, Dr Frances Quinn and Professor Neil Taylor. The details of the study are below and we hope you will consent to your child being involved.

### Aim of the Study:

This study aims to understand when, how and why students become less likely to choose a Year 11 or 12 science course compared to their other school subjects.

### Time and other Requirements:

Your child will be requested to logon to a website (<http://asep.une.edu.au>) once per term. Each time they will be requested to complete a simple electronic survey. This should take no more than 20-30 minutes for the first time and less than 10 minutes for the next rounds of the survey. As part of the consent process you will also be given the opportunity to provide some optional demographic data which will allow us to better understand the effects of socio-economic factors on student decisions. This should take no more than 5 minutes of your time.

### Outline of the study

Existing research shows that although students enter Year 7 looking forward to doing Science, fewer students are actually choosing to study a Science course in Year 11 or 12 than at any time in the last 20 years. While we know about some of the reasons for this, we do not know what the most important factors are, or when they impact. This study aims to follow a group of students over 4 years, from Year 7 to Year 10, to try to identify the relative effects of the different factors they use in making their decisions, and to discover the times when these factors are most felt by students.

The results of this research will be presented in my thesis and may be reported in future conference proceedings and/or published in journal articles.

### Prize Draw

All students who complete three rounds of the survey in each year, will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a share of \$100 of iTunes<sup>1</sup> gift cards. Winners will be randomly selected by computer and notified by e-mail after the draw.

---

<sup>1</sup>iTunes is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. Apple Inc. is in no way associated with this study.



# ASEP

School of Education  
University of New England  
Armidale NSW 2351  
Australia

Fax: 61 2 6773 2445

Email: [education@une.edu.au](mailto:education@une.edu.au)

[www.une.edu.au/education](http://www.une.edu.au/education)

## Confidentiality:

You or your child will not be identified in any reports. Please note that your child's participation in this study is completely voluntary and they, or you, are free at any time to withdraw consent for the project without having to give a reason and without consequence.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study will remain confidential. You or your child will not be identified by name in any publication of the results. All names will be replaced with pseudonyms ensuring that you will not be identifiable. Data will be kept on a secure computer server and will only be accessible by the researchers. Any printouts will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the principal researcher's office. Identifying data will be kept for five (5) years following completion of the study and then deleted securely or, in the case of printouts, destroyed.

It is unlikely that this research will raise any personal or upsetting issues but if it does you may wish to contact your local Community Health Centre.

## Research Process:

It is anticipated that this research will be completed by the end of 2017. The results will be presented in my thesis and may also be presented at conferences or written up in journals without any identifying information.

This project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New England (Approval No. HE13-116 Valid to 04/07/2014)

Should you have any complaints concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact the Research Ethics Officer at the following address:

Research Services

University of New England

Armidale, NSW 2351.

Telephone: (02) 6773 3449 Facsimile (02) 6773 3543

Email: [ethics@une.edu.au](mailto:ethics@une.edu.au)

## Participating:

To accept this invitation and participate in this project, visit <http://asep.une.edu.au/register> to give your consent online and encourage your child to follow the link that will be e-mailed to them. You will need an active e-mail address for your child. **Your School Access Code is XXXX.** Alternatively complete the attached consent form and encourage your child to complete the corresponding assent form for participants. Please then return the forms directly to John Kennedy at the address below or to your child's school.

Kind regards,

Mr John Kennedy

St Andrew's Cathedral  
School

Sydney Square  
Sydney, NSW 2000

AUSTRALIA

phone: 02 9286 9610

fax: 02 9286 9550

[jkenne37@myune.edu.au](mailto:jkenne37@myune.edu.au)

Dr Terry Lyons

School of Education  
Faculty of the Professions  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
AUSTRALIA

phone: 02 6773 2983

fax: 02 6773 4291

[terry.lyons@une.edu.au](mailto:terry.lyons@une.edu.au)

Dr Frances Quinn

School of Education  
Faculty of the Professions  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
AUSTRALIA

phone: 02 6773 3411

fax: 02 6773 5078

[fquinn@une.edu.au](mailto:fquinn@une.edu.au)

Professor Neil Taylor

School of Education  
Faculty of the Professions  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
AUSTRALIA

phone: 02 6773 5064

fax: 02 6773 5078

[ntaylor6@une.edu.au](mailto:ntaylor6@une.edu.au)

**Consent Form for Parents of Participants**



**ASEP**

**Research Project: *The Australian Science Enrolment Project***

School of Education  
 University of New England  
 Armidale NSW 2351  
 Australia  
 Fax: 61 2 6773 2445  
 Email: [education@une.edu.au](mailto:education@une.edu.au)  
[www.une.edu.au/education](http://www.une.edu.au/education)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

1. I have read the information contained in the Information Sheet for Guardians of Participants and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. I agree that my child may participate in the online survey realising that we may withdraw at any time without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. I understand that my child's participation is voluntary, that they can choose not to participate in all or part of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. I understand that any data that the researcher extracts from the survey for use in reports or published findings will not, under any circumstances, contain names or identifying characteristics.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. I agree that any comments my child makes may be included in reports and publications.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Optional Questions** (you may choose to answer all, some or none of the following questions)

6. With whom does child live most of the time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Both Parents		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Mother		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Father		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
7. What is the highest educational level of the participant's parents?	<b>Mother</b>		<b>Father</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 10 School Leaver	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 12 School Leaver	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Certificate/Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bachelor Degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Postgraduate Degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. What is your household's approximate annual income?		<input type="checkbox"/> less than \$25000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$25000-\$50000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50000-\$75000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$75000-\$100000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$100000-\$125000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$125000-\$150000	
		<input type="checkbox"/> more than \$150000	

**Participant's name:** .....

**Participant's e-mail:** .....

**Participant's school:** .....

**Parent / Guardian's name:** .....

**Signature:** .....**Date:** .....

Please return this completed form, together with you parent's/guardian's consent form to your coordinator at school or direct to Mr John Kennedy at the address shown on the information letter.