Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are invited to take part in a research project exploring the type of things that might affect a student’s decision to stay on at school or training after Year 10. The project is being run by a team of researchers at the University of Tasmania, with support from the Tasmanian Department of Education.

If you are interested in sharing your opinions and experiences with us, we invite you to participate in our study by completing an online survey. To access the online survey please follow this link to the ‘Beyond Year 10’ project website, or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

http://tinyurl.com/BeyondYear10

If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey please contact the Research Project Manager, Suzie Wright (email suzie.wright@utas.edu.au or phone 62262869). For more information on the project and the survey please refer to the Information Sheet below.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this survey, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

(for the Research Team)

Mrs. Suzie Wright
Research Project Manager
Faculty of Education
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 66
Hobart, 7001

Ph. 6226 2869
Email: suzie.wright@utas.edu.au
PARENTS/GUARDIANS INFORMATION SHEET

BEYOND YEAR 10 – TASMANIAN SCHOOL SURVEY
FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Invitation
You are invited to take part in a research project exploring the type of things that might affect a student’s decision to stay on at school after Year 10. The project is being run by a team of researchers at the University of Tasmania, with support from the Tasmanian Department of Education.

1. What is the purpose of this study?
Staying on at school after Year 10 is important to improving the skills and knowledge of young people. This three-year project aims to discover the types of things that might help increase the number of students staying on at school after Year 10, especially in rural, regional and disadvantaged areas in Tasmania.

The survey is to find out what parents/guardians think about school and about their child or children continuing their education and/or training after Year 10.

2. Why have I been invited to participate in this study?
You are eligible to participate in this study because you are a parent or guardian of a student in a school selected by the Tasmanian Department of Education for inclusion in the study.

3. What does this study involve?
The study is being run over 3 years and will follow five cohorts of students – in Years 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11 at the start of the study. Data will also be collected from the students’ parents/guardians in the second year of the study using an online survey (or a paper copy if preferred). The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

It is important that you understand that your part in this project is voluntary. While we are happy to have you take part, we respect your right not to. There will be no problem for you if you decide not to take part. If you decide to stop taking part at any time, you can do this without giving a reason. All of the
information you give will be private, and your name will not be used in any writing about the project. All of your information will be kept safe in a locked cabinet in the Faculty of Education, University of Tasmania, for five years and then securely destroyed. Electronic files will be deleted from computer hard-drives and servers, and electronic “rubbish bins” emptied. CD-ROM-based electronic files will be (securely) shredded. Paper documents will be (securely) shredded.

4. **Are there any possible benefits from participation in this study?**
   It is possible that you will notice changes in the attitude of students, parents or guardians, teachers, school leaders and principals towards student retention beyond Year 10 after a certain period of time. This may lead to increased student retention at your child’s school. It may also result in enhanced personal wellbeing of your own child or other students in the targeted schools as student retention beyond Year 10 is fundamental to improving the skills and capacity of our youth. We will be interested to see if you experience any other benefits from the implementation of findings from this study.

5. **Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?**
   There are no specific risks anticipated with participation in this study.

6. **What if I have questions about this research?**
   If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study please feel free to contact Suzie Wright, the Research Project Manager. Contact details are located at the end of your letter of invitation.

This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study you should contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote Project Number H12167.

**Thank you for taking the time to consider this study.**