



University of South Australia
Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences.
Magill Campus.

Title of the research project: Possible Selves and the Motivation of High School Students.

Researcher: Mr G.A. Higgs (B.Ed, Dip. T.)

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Term 4, 2000.

Dear Parents of year 10 students,

After over 30 years as a science and mathematics teacher I am now working on a doctoral research thesis at the Magill campus of the University of South Australia. As part of my research, I want to collect a range of responses from year 10 students by using an anonymous questionnaire that asks them to respond to questions about their future hopes and thoughts. In addition I will be using a scale to measure optimism, self-esteem and persistence to complete assigned tasks. I'm trying to tap into how young adolescents think about their future lives.

When your son or daughter is in year 12, I would like to administer the same questionnaire again to see if there has been any change in their outlook on life.

The data collected from the survey in this school and other metropolitan and country schools, may help to provide information about students who leave school before completing their secondary education. The analysis of the data will be purely statistical and individuals will not be identified.

I have included a permission slip to allow you to give consent for your son/daughter to take part in this research. Please send it to the school for collection. It will be passed on to me, and your child will be included on the list of participating students. There is, of course, no obligation to take part and there are no particular

advantages for students who do. Students who do not take part are not disadvantaged in any way. Students are only identified by a code number and thus remain anonymous in any published reports. I will retain students' names until the final data is collected in year 12 but the lists will then be destroyed.

Please contact me or Dr Yates if further information is required. The name and telephone number of the Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee is listed below. She will be available to discuss general aspects of the project should you wish to do so.

The current Chair is Ms Linley Hartmann,
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Yours sincerely,

G.A. Higgs.
University of S.A.