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## SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK

### ATTACHMENT E: INFORMATION SHEET TREE OF HOPE: FIVE YEARS ON

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#### INFORMATION SHEET

##### Invitation

We invite you to participate in an exciting research project called *Tree of Hope: Five Years On*. The study is being undertaken by a team of researchers from the School of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Tasmania, led by senior lecturer Dr Karen Willis together with Dr Emily Bishop, Dr Sonya Stanford and Mara Schneiders.

##### What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to follow up with a group of participants from the original *Tree of Hope Project*, conducted in 2006. Our aim is to explore what 'hope' means to young people now; whether hopes for the future have changed in the intervening period, if so how, and what their current hopes are for the future.

##### Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

Because you were a participant in the original *Tree of Hope* in 2006. This was a class room activity conducted in primary schools in the Launceston area.

##### What does this study involve?

There are two ways you can join in this study. The first is to come along to a focus group discussion (3-4 people) where you will be presented with the leaf you decorated for the 2006 *Tree of Hope*. You will be invited to discuss topics such as: how your hopes have changed in five years, and what hopes you now hold for the future (either for your personal future or beyond this). With your permission, this will be audio recorded. You will then be invited to express your current hopes for the future, and the actual form this takes is up to you! Possibilities include designing a poster or brochure, drawing, writing poetry and/or prose, or video-recording your hope. The second way is to attend a three hour 'Expressing Hope' workshop. Here you will discuss the same topics as those above, but join 15-20 other young people in doing so. With this option you will also be provided with a range of multimedia with which to creatively express your hopes; for instance making a short video recording.

##### Have your voice heard!

Your expression of hope will be presented to the local community (and beyond) in a variety of ways. First, a selection of the works will be published in a special feature in the Examiner in term three. Second, it will be exhibited at the *New Gallery*, on the University of Tasmania's Newnham campus and finally, it will be uploaded onto the existing, updated *Tree of Hope* website ([www.treeofhope.com.au](http://www.treeofhope.com.au)).

**Participation is entirely voluntary:** Your involvement in this study is completely voluntary. We respect your right to decline and there will certainly be no negative consequences if you decide not to participate—which you can do at anytime, without explanation.

### **Are there benefits from participating in this study?**

Revisiting the hopes you held five years ago, as well as reflecting on the various hopes you hold now, is likely to be a particularly enjoyable and rewarding experience. You will also have the opportunity to have your ideas seen, heard and responded to by the wider Launceston community. Your participation will play an important role in developing a deeper understanding of the meaning and positive role of ‘hope’ in young people’s lives.

### **Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?**

Our experience with the original project showed that this was an optimistic and positive experience, and we expect that this will be so in this project. However, it is important that you know that there are some possible risks.

- Some people may not enjoy revisiting the hopes they expressed five years ago. They are likely to have changed and some people may feel embarrassed by this. However, we see these changes as interesting and important, nothing to be embarrassed by.
- Your participation in these group activities means that other people will hear your ideas and you may feel embarrassed by this or worried about what people will do with this information. The facilitators will actively work to create a group atmosphere that promotes respect, trust and inclusiveness. You also can decide what you feel comfortable about discussing in the group, so that you have keep control over what information you share.
- You should also be aware that if you tell the facilitators or other group members that you are at risk or have been harmed in any way that we will need to report this in an effort to help you to be safe.

We ask you to consider all of these factors before agreeing to participate.

While you can select *not* to have your first name attributed to your work (or you can choose another name), people who know you, that are reading the final publication, may be able to match your hopes for the future, to you personally. This may not concern you at all and we expect that many people will wish to have their name associated with their work, but if it bothers you, please consider it before agreeing to participate.

### **What if I have questions about this research?**

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study, please feel free to contact either Dr Karen Willis on 63 243499, or Dr Emily Bishop on 63243522 or you can email us at [K.Willis@utas.edu.au](mailto:K.Willis@utas.edu.au), or [Emily.Bishop@utas.edu.au](mailto:Emily.Bishop@utas.edu.au).

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

***Thank you for taking the time to consider this study. Should you wish to take part in the study, please sign the attached consent form. This information sheet is for you to keep.***