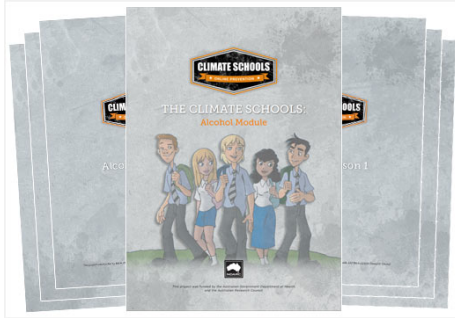





Climate Schools: Alcohol Module



Evidence ratings: 

This resource is supported by multiple published studies. See our [Help/Q&A section](#) for more details.

Year: Year 7–8

Targeted Drugs: Alcohol

Tags: Climate Schools, social influence approach, harm minimisation

Time Allocated: 1-6 lessons

Links to National Curriculum:

ACPPS072 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS073 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS074 (Yr 7–8), ACPPS076 (Yr 7–8)

Origin: Australian

Cost:

Free

Developers

Climate Schools was developed by researchers currently based at the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use at the University of Sydney, Australia, formerly based at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), School of Psychiatry, and the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use at UNSW Sydney.

Available

Format

This curriculum-based online program is designed to be administered by teachers within classrooms. The program involves **6 x 45-minute lessons**, each with two components:

- A 15-minute computer-based component.
- Teacher delivered classroom activities.

No specialist teacher training is required. Booster sessions are also available.

Summary

The Climate Schools: Alcohol Module was developed for 13-14 year olds and aims to prevent and reduce alcohol use and related harms. Designed to be implemented within the school health curriculum, Climate Schools is based on a social influence approach to prevention and uses cartoon storylines to engage and maintain student interest and involvement.

Students follow six episodes of an online cartoon-based drama about teenagers and their experiences with alcohol. Through the storyline, students learn about underage drinking and the law, standard drink measurements, prevalence of drinking among 13-14 year olds, societal pressures to drink, short and long term consequences of drinking, drug refusal skills and how to respond in an alcohol-related medical emergency. Each episode ends with a short quiz to assess and consolidate learning. The class and homework activities are designed to reinforce the material taught in the cartoon and encourage students to apply the preventative messages and skills. Feedback indicates that teachers and students enjoy the program, and implementation within the classroom environment is highly feasible.

Training and Costs

Access to Climate Schools is currently **FREE** to help support school staff, parents and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note there is usually an annual subscription cost of \$250-\$950. If your school already has an active paid subscription, the subscription expiry date will be extended to account for this complimentary period (no action is required).

Climate schools Pty LTD was established in 2015 by Maree Teesson and Nicola Newton to distribute the Climate Schools programs and maximise social well-being. Refer to the [website](#) for registration and subscription details.

Benefits

- Increases alcohol knowledge
- Reduces alcohol consumption
- Reduces binge drinking.

Evidence Base

Benefits of the Climate Schools: Alcohol Module have been demonstrated in Australia in two randomised control trials.

In addition, the benefits of the Alcohol Module when combined with the Alcohol & Cannabis Module have been demonstrated in five trials. (For details, see [Climate Schools: Alcohol & Cannabis Module](#)).

Newton, N. C., Vogl, L. E., Teesson, M., & Andrews, G. (2009). CLIMATE Schools: alcohol module: cross-validation of a school-based prevention programme for alcohol misuse. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 43, 201-207.

Vogl, L., Teesson, M., Andrews, G., Bird, K., Steadman, B., & Dillon, P. (2009). A computerized harm minimization prevention program for alcohol misuse and related harms: randomized controlled trial. *Addiction*, 104, 564-575.

The Climate Schools programs received a three-star rating from the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) following their comprehensive **systematic review of alcohol education programs**. Climate School was the only Australian program to receive the maximum evidence rating.

The Climate Schools programs were recognised at the 2014 Society of Mental Health Research conference with the Australian Rotary Health Knowledge Dissemination award.



Page last reviewed: 5 August 2020.