

The first report of outcomes from the promising **Australian alcohol harm reduction curriculum** featured in *Nugget* 2.13 has now been published. Delivered to pupils over the first two years of secondary school (12–14 years of age) it focused on reducing harm from drinking and drew eclectically on the international evidence to design a curriculum which maximised the potential to alter behaviour. Headline findings were that, compared to equivalent controls, after year one intervention pupils consumed significantly less alcohol. This was mainly due to changes among pupils who had already drunk alcohol, but only under adult supervision. Their increase in consumption was less than half that of the controls and they experienced nearly a third the level of harm from their drinking. These and other intervention pupils also gained in knowledge and support for safer drinking and in the second year continued to show greater improvements in knowledge, attitudes and harms. Existing drinkers benefited most probably because the education was more relevant and (since they continued to drink more than their peers) they had more scope for putting it into practice.

Featured studies McBride N., *et al.* "Early results from a school alcohol harm minimization study: the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project." *Addiction*: 2000, 95(7), p. 1021–1042. Copies: apply Alcohol Concern .

Contacts Nyanda McBride, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University GPO Box U1987, Perth, Western Australia 6845, Australia, fax: 00 61 8 9486 9477, e-mail nyanda@ndri.curtin.edu.au. [SHAHRP web site](#)
www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/shahrph

LINKS *Nuggets* 4.14 3.15 2.13
*Education's uncertain
saviour*, issue 3, p. 4