

P.A.R.T.Y. helps youth make the right choices

More young people can now join the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth).

“ Road trauma is still one of the most common causes of mortality and catastrophic injury in youth.”

Immensely popular with Brisbane high schools, the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program is run by the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Trauma Service to educate young people on risks, consequences and injury prevention.

Almost 40 per cent of deaths in teenagers and young adults under the age of 25 are the result of road trauma.

P.A.R.T.Y. delivers a powerful message to young people about road safety, consequences of bad decisions and the effects of alcohol and drugs before they learn to drive.

Through a series of hands-on activities and exposure to trauma patients, the program gives students the ability to recognise and prevent potential injury-producing situations and adopt behaviour that minimises unnecessary risks.

Since commencing in 2010, more than 4,000 students between the ages of 15 and 19 have attended the program.

The program has been expanded to give more young people the opportunity to participate.

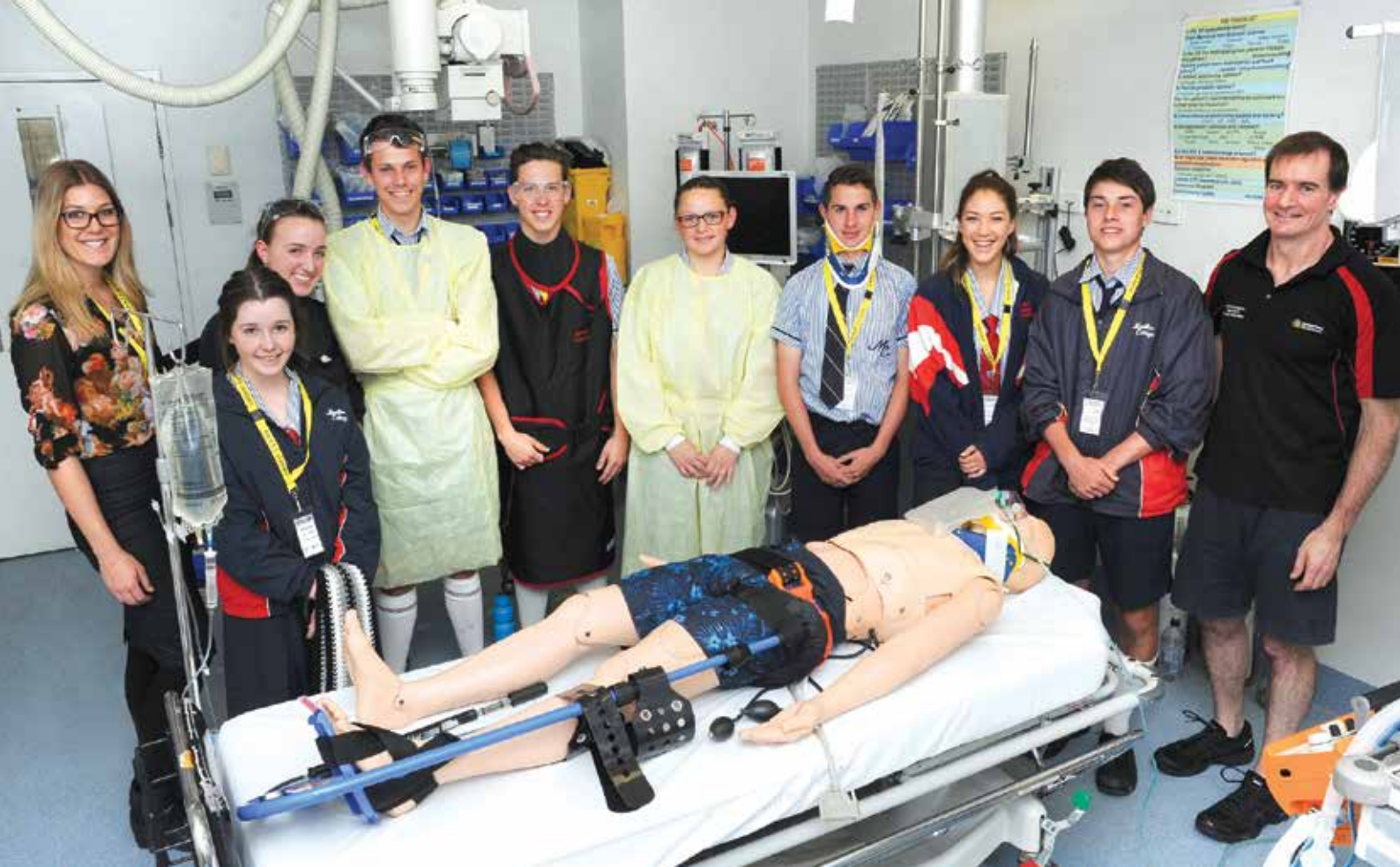
In 2013, a modified half-day program was taken to schools to reach a larger audience, over 100 students at a time. It is the first school-based program of its kind in Australia.

The hospital-based P.A.R.T.Y. program was also introduced at Nambour Hospital in 2013 and Gold Coast University Hospital in 2015, with RBWH the state-wide coordinator of these programs.

The P.A.R.T.Y. team at the RBWH have plans to roll out the program to other hospitals in Queensland as well as an Outreach P.A.R.T.Y. program to rural and remotes centres.



Above: Students from Mueller College follow the journey of a trauma patient with RBWH Department of Emergency Clinical Nurse Consultant Simon Dodson.



“P.A.R.T.Y. was an initiative of the RBWH Trauma Service and would not be possible without the tireless dedication of staff across the multidisciplinary departments of both hospitals involved in the delivery of these programs,” program coordinator Tracey Daelman said.

Student Rose McGrail said she was not prepared for the way the P.A.R.T.Y program would affect her.

“I think everyone needs to go through something like that to fully understand the effects of risk-taking behaviours. It was so confronting and I felt so drained afterwards,” Rose said.

“Despite the fact that I felt drained, on my way home the impact of the day really settled with me and I think that is a success in itself. To have this profound impact on someone is one step closer to a positive change, to preventative behaviours which could possibly save a life.”

Do you think the P.A.R.T.Y. Program will make a difference to the way you think about your actions in the future?

