

Dear Students and Parents,

The Stronger Families Alliance (SFA) is a group of community members and service providers in the Blue Mountains who are committed to making the Blue Mountains a great place for children and young people to live, go to school, and work.

Our ultimate goal is to prevent mental health problems and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in the Blue Mountains.

Our focus is to try to ensure that:

Being	Children and young people are safe, healthy, flourishing and have a secure cultural identity.
Belonging:	Children and young people feel they belong to the community and the place where they live.
Becoming	Children and young people reach their full potential.

We also want to assist those who support children and young people - families, early learning providers and schools and community members - to nurture child and youth mental health and wellbeing.

Caring	Parents, caregivers and families care for and support their children to reach their full potential
	Early learning services and schools support children and young people to flourish and learn
	The Blue Mountains community provides a safe, caring and supportive environment for children and young people to live

We seek to do that by working together as effectively as we can.

Supporting	Stronger Family Alliance services work together to support the above outcomes
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You can find out more about the SFA on our website: <http://www.strongerfamilies.net.au>

We are in the process of developing a long term plan to support children and young people in the Blue Mountains. We want to be able to understand what is happening for young people and how best to support them.

To help us do that we will be asking students in **secondary schools** across the Blue Mountains to participate in a survey to understand:

- How young people feel about their lives and see their future
- How resilient they are
- How well supported they feel

- How connected to others in the community they are through organised sporting, cultural and social clubs or groups.

Students will not be identified by name in the survey and the school that they are going to will not be recorded.

All of the information we collect will be aggregated and will only ever be presented in a way that does not allow students or specific schools to be identified.

The survey will allow us to understand the strengths and resilience of young people in the Blue Mountains as well as what can be done to help them to build on those strengths.

The survey will be conducted at your school beginning on 22/8/2018 as stated in a previous email to all parents and carers.

Participation is completely voluntary but we do encourage everyone to take part in it.

At the same time, the Stronger Families Alliance will be conducting a similar process with the broader community and seeking adult participation to an adult version of a wellbeing survey. We welcome your completion of this this survey to help us develop an understanding of how the broader community assess their sense of wellbeing. This survey is available at

<https://www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/> and will be available until the end of the year.

If you have any questions in relation to the survey please contact: the SFA Wellbeing project
Convenor :

Rhiannon Walker
SFA Wellbeing Survey Convenor
BMCC Social Researcher/Data Management Officer
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If you have any questions in relation to the Stronger Families Alliance (SFA) please contact: the
SFA Convenor :

Patricia Darvall
Stronger Families Alliance Convenor
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