



Parent Information Sheet

It will come as no surprise to many parents that head lice infestations in children appear to be on the rise. Reasons for this increase are not clear although there is evidence from research conducted in Queensland schools that some head lice are becoming resistant to the common chemical head lice treatments available.

The Nitbusters School Head Lice Project is a joint project between NSW Health, NSW Department of Education and Communities, Federation of School Councils and the Federation of P&C Associations. The project aims to educate schools, children and parents about head lice and how to treat them as a community and within the home.

In order for **Nitbusters** to be successful in your school, every child should be involved. It takes just one infested head to infest the whole class. One of the key messages of the project is that anyone and everyone can contract nits, regardless of your age, sex or background. Treatment needs to be community-based and ongoing.

The project involves the entire school community working together to coordinate and run a **Nitbusting Day** on the school premises, in an effort to treat the entire student body for head lice at one time. The school's parent body organises the day by providing helpers to screen and treat all children for head lice. The screening is done by parent/guardian volunteers on a class by class basis, with the youngest children treated early in the school day. The project employs the use of the comb and conditioner method for treating the presence of head lice, which is a safe, non-chemical treatment, involving the mechanical removal of head lice through combing.

Upon completion, the child's hair will be combed and tidied (braiding is advised for long hair). Rinsing off the conditioner in the schoolyard is difficult to manage and not advisable. Therefore, because the conditioner will not damage the hair, it will be left on and can be rinsed off when they return home.



Parent Consent Form

I, _____ being the legal parent/guardian

of _____ (Child's name) give my consent to their participation in the Nitbusters School Head Lice Project.

- I acknowledge that I have received and read the Parent Information Sheet, which explains the aims and procedures involved in this project. I understand that my child's participation in this project is entirely voluntary and that they can withdraw at any stage.
- I also understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time for my child's participation.
- I also understand that the information relating to my child's participation in the project is strictly confidential.

I hereby give my consent to my child: _____ in class _____ participating in the project.

Signature: _____ Date: _____