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Page 1 of 1

Study calls for rural children

A GROUNDBREAKING study of rural and regional children as they progress through adolescence needs the help of another 150 Dubbo families.

The ARCHER study is being conducted in Dubbo and Orange with its chief investigator Kate Steinbeck, Professor of Adolescent Medicine at the University of Sydney and Children's Hospital Westmead. It aims to determine how hormones affect the health and wellbeing of young people.

"New measurement techniques allow us to measure small quantities of hormones and will let us discover for the first time the role these powerful messengers play in young person's life as they grow up," Professor Steinbeck said.

Fifty Dubbo families are already part of the study that will host a party for participants at Kidzoo in Dubbo this evening.

Karen Paxton, ARCHER manager at the School of Rural Health, Dubbo and Orange, said they would enjoy games, music and prizes.

"We hope that this will be the first of many celebrations for ARCHER," she said.

"We are so grateful to the families that have volunteered to join the study and we want to thank them."

Dubbo families with children in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 are invited to join the study or contact Ms Paxton for further information. They can also visit www.archerstudy.org.au.

"Participation in ARCHER takes just a couple of hours a year," Ms Paxton said.

"Young people in the study are rewarded for their time, learn about being part of important research and provide information that may change the lives of future generations of young people."

Ms Paxton can be contacted on 0417 499 515.