



# The Latrobe Early Life Follow-Up (ELF) Study

# Target Group

Children who were born between 1 March 2012 and 31 December 2015 from the towns of Morwell, Moe, Churchill, Traralgon, Newborough, Yallourn and surrounding towns.

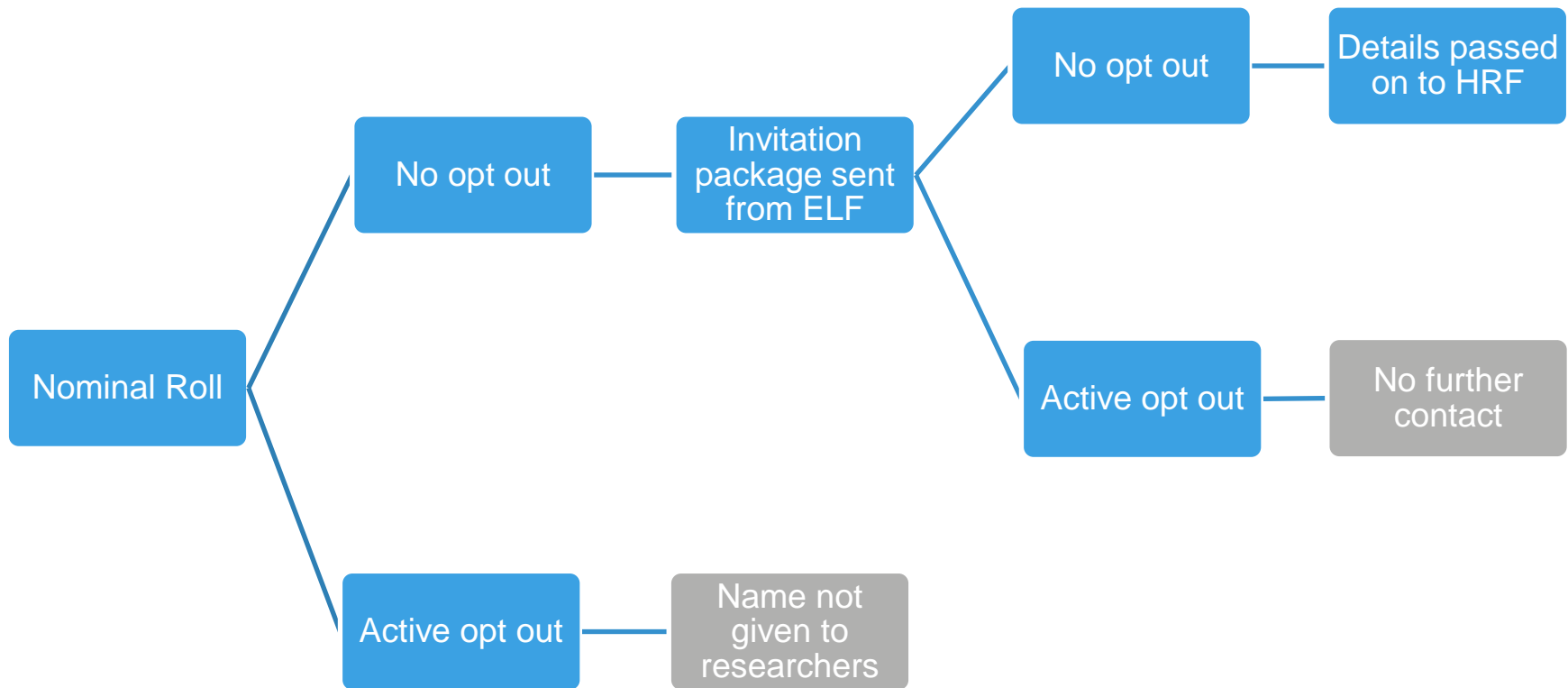
- Group 1 (born between Feb 2014 and Nov 2014) will enable us to study the effects of the mother's exposure to the fire smoke during pregnancy.
- Group 2 (born before Feb 2014) will enable us to study the effects of the fire smoke on babies and toddlers.
- Group 3 (born after Nov 2014) will provide a comparison group who were not exposed to the fire smoke at all.

# What does the study involve?

The study has five main parts:

1. Completing a survey
2. Collect dust and soil samples from the home (a smaller group only)
3. Completion of an online monthly child health diary
4. Permission for linkage of survey data to health and education-related datasets
5. Participating in simple lung, heart and blood vessel checks in later years

# RECRUITMENT PROCESS



# RECRUITMENT RESULTS

Invitation packages sent = 1,978

Valid contact details = 1,709

**Surveys completed = 538 (32%)\***

Short surveys completed = 40 (2%)\*

Active opt-out = 47 (3%)\*

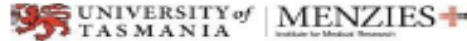
CATI refusal = 106 (6%)\*

Ineligible/unsuitable/unavailable = 118 (7%)\*

\*Of those contactable

# MONTHLY HEALTH DIARY

- 4 quick questions about the child's health in the last month
- SMS & email sent each month with link to web survey
- 156 participants to date (need consent form returned first)
- Averaging 80% completion rate



The Latrobe Early Life Follow-up Study: the child health and development stream of the Hazelwood Health Study

### The Latrobe ELF Study Child Health Diary

Study Child: <Child\_FirstName> <Child\_Surname>

Please Indicate all that apply for the month of <December 2015>

**1. Did <Child\_FirstName> have any of these symptoms in this month?**

- Runny nose  Yes  No
- Coughing  Yes  No
- Wheezing  Yes  No
- Fever  Yes  No
- Skin rash – not in nappy area  Yes  No

**2. Did you have contact with any of these health care providers in this month because <Child\_FirstName> was not well?**

- You got telephone advice from a nurse or doctor  Yes  No
- You got verbal advice from staff in a pharmacy  Yes  No
- Your child was seen by a child health nurse  Yes  No
- Your child was seen by a GP, local doctor  Yes  No
- Your child was seen by a doctor at a hospital  Yes  No

**3. Were any of these medicines used by <Child\_FirstName> in this month?**

Antibiotics  Yes  No

If yes, please specify medication name \_\_\_\_\_

Inhalers for asthma (Include all types)  Yes  No

If yes, please specify medication name \_\_\_\_\_

Steroid skin cream or ointment  Yes  No

If yes, please specify medication name \_\_\_\_\_

[Steroid skin products include: advantan, antroquirel, aristocort, betamethasone, betnovate, celestone, cortaid, cortecD8, cortef, cortival, desonide, desowen, dermaid, dermain, dripsone, egocort, elephrat, eiocon, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, monometasone, novason, stigmocort, triamcinolone, tricortone.]

**4. Did a doctor diagnose any of the following in <Child\_FirstName> in this month?**

- Upper respiratory Infection, cold or flu  Yes  No
- Ear Infection  Yes  No
- Eczema or dermatitis  Yes  No
- Chest infection  Yes  No
- Bronchiolitis  Yes  No
- Wheezing  Yes  No
- Asthma  Yes  No
- Croup  Yes  No
- Pneumonia  Yes  No

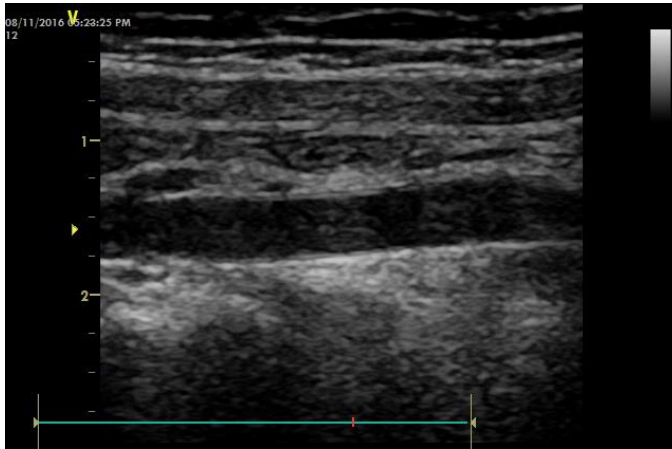
# SOIL & DUST COLLECTION

- Small samples of dust from vacuum cleaner and soil from yard which we will test for chemical markers of coal smoke
- Only collected by those still living within the Latrobe Valley
- 166 kits sent out to date



# NEXT STEPS

- CLINICAL TESTING
  - Ultrasound of blood vessels in abdomen and neck
  - Measurement of lung function
  
- DATA LINKAGE
  - Linkage of routinely collected data:
    - Perinatal data
    - Medicare & PBS
    - Hospital Emergency visits and admissions
    - NAPLAN results
    - Cancer registrations



# EARLY OUTCOMES FOR MEASUREMENT

- The first outcomes to be analysed will be about the health of newborn babies after the fire
  - The birth weight of babies born at full term
  - The proportion of babies born earlier than expected
- This information will come from
  - The data collected from parents in the surveys
  - Anonymous data for all of Victoria provided by the Victoria Perinatal Data collection (We are expecting the data to be provided to us during 2017)
- If all data are available as scheduled the initial results expected
  - 2017 for the survey data
  - 2018 for the statewide data

# Discussion

- Fantastic response that exceeded our expectations.
- If we haven't already heard from parents we will make further contact to:
  - Provide their thank you gift vouchers
  - Check if they would like to join the other parts of the ELF study
  - Offer help with the written consent form

