

Health census results to be released

FIRST results from the LINKIN Health Census are becoming available to Port Lincoln residents.

Initial results indicate almost half of the people who responded rated their overall health as excellent or very good and over 20 per cent - 2 in every 10 - rate their health as fair or poor.

A newsletter is being distributed to all households to provide Port Lincoln residents with the first results of the census.

The census, conducted in Port Lincoln last October, was the first step in a three-year study by the University of Adelaide Research Team.

The team has been analysing the information and is looking forward to the next stages of the health study.

Local team member Dr Jonathan Newbury said 74 per cent of all residents responded to the survey and 42 per cent agreed for the team to come back to ask further questions about their health and use of services.

The team is keen to talk to community groups, service providers and individuals about the initial findings, answer questions and discuss priorities for further study.

The research team is working on specific questions coming from the census data including examining why some people who rate their health as fair or poor do not use health services; the patterns of health service use for people with bone and joint problems; and young people's understanding of health and wellbeing.

The team will contact health service providers and government departments such as Country Health SA about these and other issues.

■ By Natasha Ewendt