‘KEEPING HEALTHY’ UNIT ASSIGNMENT
HEALTH DECISIONS & ETHICS
YEAR 9 SCIENCE, 2017

OVERVIEW
There will be times in your life when you need to make some important decisions about your health and the health of others. In this task you will analyse some of the scientific and ethical aspects of a chosen issue, and make a reasoned decision.

TASK
Organisers of a science & ethics conference have invited you, as a young member of our community, to submit a position paper about a topical health issue. Your position paper will be on ONE of the following questions*:

1. In a flu pandemic, who should receive the limited supplies of anti-viral drugs?
2. Two medical research proposals for decreasing the rates of infectious diseases are:
   (i) Make heat-stable vaccines that do not need to be refrigerated
   (ii) Create a test-card that could check blood for TB and HIV in a few minutes
   Which one of these should be given priority for funding if people in poor countries are to benefit the most?
3. Should the development of new antibiotics be given the highest priority in medical research?
4. Should ‘Gardasil™’ vaccine be compulsory for all 11 to 17 year old Australians?
5. Should sugary/fatty junk foods be taxed at a higher rate than nutritious food in Australia?
6. Should the Queensland Immunisation Schedule vaccinations be compulsory for children?
7. Should smoking tobacco be totally banned in Australia?
8. Should animals be used in medical research?

* NOTE: Negotiate with your teacher if you wish to do another topical health question, or produce a different product for the conference delegates, such as a speech, web page, audiotape, podcast, etc.

AUDIENCE
Participants at the conference and the wider community

PRESENTATION
Position paper (completed by each person)

CONDITIONS
• Home and Class time
• Complete all required tasks
• Minimum of about 800 words

DATE DUE:
First Draft: Week 7
Final Copy: Week 8
• For the first draft and final copy submit a paper copy to your teacher and upload the ‘Word’ ‘PDF’ or Google Doc file to ‘www.turnitin.com’. Final copy is due no later than 4 pm on the due date.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
• Knowledge
• Researching & managing information skills
• Communication skills
• Critical and creative thinking skills

RESOURCES
• Teacher Notes and Handouts
• Google Drive resources
• NC Yr 9 Sci Web pages & web links
• NC Library (LibGuide)
TASK SPECIFICS
The position paper has a number of sections, with the headings listed below. The details of what’s required for each section are also described for you.

(1) Introduction
- Provide a brief outline of the purpose of your position paper.

(2) Background information and discussion (minimum 300 words)
- Provide background information about the question and associated issues, including
  ✓ defining relevant terms (e.g. pandemic or antibiotic resistance or vaccine, etc)
  ✓ the science involved
  ✓ relevant facts, statistics, risks, benefits and drawbacks, etc
  ✓ citations for the information sources used for any claims (using the correct format)

(3) Ethical considerations (minimum 350 words)
- Analyse the issues by answering questions such as
  ✓ who stands to gain and who stands to lose?
  ✓ what are the financial issues?
  ✓ what are the unanswered questions and issues?
  ✓ how does this affect me?
- Summarise your analysis of the issues by presenting positions on the issues from at least THREE of these four ethical perspectives:
  ✓ Rights-based ✓ Self-centred
  ✓ Care-based ✓ Utilitarianism

(4) Position taken (minimum 150 words)
- Explain the decision that you have made about the question you have investigated, and give reasons supporting your decision.

(5) Bibliography
- This is a list of the information sources you used in the position paper. The College uses the ‘Harvard’ style of referencing - refer to your SRB for the details.

Notes:
- Make sure you answer the question that you selected!
- You may wish to use a decision making matrix to help you to reach a decision through analysing various aspects of the issue and their relative importance.