

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS?

The **NZ Rights Caution** is meant to make sure that everyone has legal protection.

Our project: We wanted to find out if young people in New Zealand understand what their rights are.

- We interviewed 104 young people from schools in the Wellington area, including some students from this school.



Knowing your rights:

If police want to talk to you, you have to tell them your name and address BUT then

- ✓ You have the **right to remain silent**: this means you can decide not to say anything to the police. You can also change your mind and stop talking to them at anytime.
 - The right to remain silent helps protect you from saying something that might not help you.
- ✓ You can ask the Police to **speak with a lawyer** or some other adult you trust (like a parent).
 - Your lawyers job is to help **you** (e.g., decide what the best thing for you to do is) **not** the Police.
 - They can stay with you when the police talk with you.

What we found:

Some young people in NZ understand *some* of their Rights, but some very important Rights were misunderstood by lots of young people!

- For example, most young people were confused about what the Right to silence means, and a lot didn't know what a lawyer's job was.

The research team: Frances Gaston (MSc in Forensic Psychology) and her supervisors Dr Clare-Ann Fortune & Dr Deirdre Brown.

For more information please visit Dr Fortune's and Dr Brown's websites: <http://youthfpsy.com/> & <http://applieddevelopmentallab.com>

You have more rights. To find out more look at these websites:

- <http://communitylaw.org.nz/community-law-manual/chapter-10-youth-justice/young-people-and-the-police-chapter-10/>
- <http://www.cab.org.nz/vat/gl/roi/Pages/Police-young-people.aspx>