SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE SEXUALLY INTELLIGENT

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SHINE SA

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND PEOPLE

• We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this Land and that we respect their cultural, spiritual and economic relationship with their country, past and present.

• We also like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Elders of this Land.

• We trust that the time we spend learning and talking together will be productive and contribute to the peace and wellbeing of all communities.
WHO IS SHINE SA?
SHINE SA

• SHine SA is the lead sexual health agency in South Australia. We work in partnership with government, health, education and community agencies and communities to improve the sexual health and wellbeing of South Australians.

• Clinics, Therapeutic counselling, Worker training, Library, Sexual Health Line, Resource development, Consultancy Services.
GROUP DISCUSSION

What was your sex education like?
WHY SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

• SA (and Australia) has one of the highest teenage pregnancy and abortion rates in developed countries. *The rate is declining despite being unacceptably high.* (about 13 per 1000 nationally)

• In SA in 2014 12.7% of the total births were teenage mothers

• The 5th National Survey of Secondary Students & Sexual Health was carried out in 2013 & involved over 2,000 Year 10, 11, and 12 students.

• ¼ of Year 10 students (23%), 1/3 of Year 11 students (34%), & ½ of Year 12 students (50%), had experienced sexual intercourse.
• Around 40% of students had experienced oral sex.

• Almost ¼ of sexually active students (23%) had sex with three or more people in the past year.

• The majority (59%) of sexually active students (those who answered ‘yes’ to having either vaginal or anal sexual intercourse) reported using a condom the last time they had sex.
• Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of sexually active students reported an experience of unwanted sex.

• Eight per cent of young men and 4% of young women reported sexual attraction only to people of the same sex.

• Five per cent of young men and 15% of young women were attracted to people of both sexes.

• Around four percent of young men and 5% of young women were unsure about their sexual attraction.
MORAL PANIC

I can't teach you about safe sex because it might encourage you to become promiscuous.

I can't tell you what airbags do. That information will make you think it's okay to start crashing into things.
WHAT WE DO KNOW

• Contrary to what opponents of comprehensive sexual health education argue, talking about sex with young people does **NOT** encourage them to have sex.

• Research has shown that it can delay young peoples sexual activity.

• A report issued by the Department of Health and Human Services has found the "most consistent and clear finding is that sex education does not cause adolescents to initiate sex when they would not otherwise have done so."
WHAT IS PORN LITERACY?

Porn literacy is a framework from which we can critically examine and make sense of the images that we see.

It aims to give us the skills, knowledge and tools to understand, unpack and ask questions about:

- Body Image
- Sexual Health
- Relationships
- Consent
- Gender and Power
- Pleasure
- Diversity
IN THE WORDS OF DR MARTY KLEIN, LICENSED SEX THERAPIST, WRITER AND SPEAKER:

In addition to death and taxes, there are two other things we can be sure of:

- The internet is here to stay
- Pornography is here to stay
HOW DO WE DEFINE PORNOGRAPHY?

• Can be hard to define

• A commonly accepted definition of pornography is ‘sexually explicit material that is primarily intended to sexually arouse the viewer’ (Malamuth et al. 2000, p. 28)

• Historically the word is derived from the Greek adjective pornographos meaning “the writing about prostitutes” and originally related to any art or literature about sex work. (Smith, 2015 pg. 1)

• “Moral Panic”

• Polar opposite views

• Simplistic solutions/answers to complex questions
ITS SUBJECTIVE

At one time this statue of Michael Angelo's David was considered porn and at one point was censored on the internet.
PORN, ART OR EROTICA?
WHY SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

• Reports and research is often conflicting

• Australian study of 16-to-17-year-olds, 84% of boys and 60% of girls indicated that they had been exposed to online sexual material unintentionally (Flood & Hamilton, 2003)

• Exposure may be less than assumed
WHY TALK ABOUT THIS?

• Increased access

• Both purposeful and accidental exposure

• May shape young people’s sexual expectations and practices
  (Haggstrom-Nordin, Hanson & Tyden 2005; Flood 2010)
WHY TALK ABOUT THIS?

• Depictions of sensual sexual activity through to aggressive, degrading, violence and rape.
SOME COMMON MESSAGES YOUNG PEOPLE GET FROM ADULTS ABOUT PORN USE:

• You can't watch that, if you do you're in big trouble!
• Only bad people watch porn
• Sex is dirty
• Your uncle watched porn and it ruined the family
AIMS OF FACILITATING A DISCUSSION

- Understand the legal context
- Develop critical media literacy skills
- Empower not shame (be thoughtful about sex)
- Provide a framework (it can be confusing)
WHERE TO START?

- Creating a safe space
- Discussing why some people view pornography
- The power of pornography to normalise
- What is happening behind the scenes?
PORNOGRAPHY: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
Porn V's Real Sex = Reality Check
THANK YOU, ANY QUESTIONS?