

A blurred background image showing several people's hands holding and using various mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source from the top left, creating a bokeh effect. The overall tone is serious and focused on digital technology.

Supporting schools to understand and address the influence of pornography

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Pornography is impacting young people

Young people see pornography at a formative stage

48% of boys have seen porn by the age of 13.

48% of girls have seen porn by the age of 15.

Pornography is not the centrefold it used to be

Mainstream pornography often depicts aggression and problematic messages about consent.

Pornography has become a default sex educator

Pornography is shaping young people's sexual understandings and experiences.

Young people need support to navigate pornography's influence

Pornography is a sensitive and challenging topic, but it has become an issue we cannot afford to ignore.

Pornography can be difficult to avoid

46% of boys and

56% of girls first saw porn unintentionally.

97% of the aggression in pornography is directed towards women.

60% of young men and **41%** of young women have used pornography as a source of information about relationships and sex in the last 12 months.

Schools, teachers and parents have critical roles to play.

Many young men see pornography often

56% of young men use porn weekly and **17%** use it daily.

15% of young women use porn weekly and **1%** use it daily.

46% of pornography includes incest themes.

35% of pornography includes non-consensual behaviour.

Boys are increasingly asking or expecting girls to follow the porn script in real life.

Pornography's influence has serious implications for young people's capacity to develop a sexuality that is safe, respectful, mutual and consenting.

Sources with links:

Our Watch, 2020

Fritz et al, 2020

NZOFLC, 2019

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Why is pornography an issue for schools?

Schools are an important context for addressing the influence of pornography for a number of reasons:

Research identifies schools as an effective site for health promotion and a priority site for violence prevention education.

Many schools are familiar with health promotion frameworks and are already engaged in related and complementary work, such as respectful relationships, online safety, violence prevention and sexuality education.

Principals and teachers have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to protect students from any harm that should have reasonably been foreseen, including harms that may be encountered within the online learning environment, and foreseeable harms now include exposure to pornography.

It is now common practice in many schools for students to use computers or tablets. Schools' promotion of the types of technology through which young people are exposed to pornography brings accompanying responsibilities to limit young people's exposure and to support parents to manage the technology at home.

Schools are significant contributors to young people's sexuality education, a context in which many of pornography's messages – about, for example, gender, bodies, consent, and sexual safety – can be appropriately addressed.

Schools can address the influence of pornography as part of a comprehensive curriculum, with the input of highly skilled professionals and access to quality resources.

Increasingly, schools are required to respond to incidents related to explicit sexual imagery – including incidents in which sexual imagery of students has been circulated – that can affect student wellbeing and school engagement, as well as potentially having legal consequences.

Schools can themselves be sites of young people's exposure to explicit sexual imagery.

Schools can develop partnerships with parents and community organisations to address these issues.



How can schools address pornography's influence?

As is the case with any health promotion concern, effective strategies to address the influence of pornography require a whole school approach – where the key messages are reinforced through strategies across the whole school context.

Supportive school leaders are critical for developing a whole school approach. An effective school-based approach to addressing pornography's influence also requires:

- Skilled, well-equipped teachers and wellbeing staff
- Effective engagement with parents
- High quality curriculum materials

It's time we talked can support your school in each of these areas.

How *It's time we talked* can support your school

It's time we talked has the resources and expertise required to support your school to address pornography's influence. These are our four most popular options:

Key staff professional learning

Full day professional learning for key teaching and wellbeing staff.

Why: Professional learning for key staff is critical in any effort to address this challenging issue with students.

What: This full day professional learning utilises a combination of presentations, videos, small and large group discussions and activities to provide staff with:

- a strong understanding of pornography's prevalence, nature and impact on young people
- frameworks and strategies for addressing pornography's influence with students.

Who: Key staff professional learning is strongly recommended for:

- all staff who will be delivering related curriculum
- wellbeing staff, such as student counsellors and health nurses
- other staff with relevant supervision, pastoral care or wellbeing roles, such as house leaders or boarding house staff.

It is suitable for up to 60 participants. You may wish to consider inviting staff from other schools and/or organisations in your region.

Format: In-person delivery.

Presenter: Maree Crabbe.

Whole staff professional learning

A concise professional learning presentation to build awareness and understanding among your whole school staff community.

Why: Although most staff will not need to attend the full day intensive professional learning, it is important that all staff have some knowledge of the issues. A shared understanding enables all staff to contribute to a whole school approach and reinforce the key messages where appropriate – as school-based incidents involving pornography, or the discussion of pornography, are often not limited to the learning area in which schools intend it to be discussed.

What: Whole school staff professional learning involves an approximately 50 minute presentation followed by a period of Q&A. It may be shorter or longer as required.

Who: This presentation is suitable for all school staff, including those in technology-related roles.

Format: In-person or online delivery.

Presenter: Maree Crabbe.

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How *It's time we talked* can support your school

Parent presentation

A presentation to your school's parent community.

Why: Parents and schools both have important roles to play in equipping students for healthy, respectful relationships. As such, efforts to address pornography's influence are most effective when schools and parents work together. By engaging and educating parents, schools can assist parents to feel equipped to talk with their children about issues such as respect, consent and pornography. Parent partnerships can also build parent support for the school's approach to the issues.

What: A parent presentation is approximately 50 minutes duration followed by a period of Q&A.

The presentation explores:

- What parents need to understand about pornography and its influence on young people's sexual understandings and expectations
- How parents can support their children's healthy social and sexual development in an age of pornography.

Schools are encouraged to follow the presentation with a brief overview of what they are doing to address pornography's influence in the school, and to join in responding to any relevant parent questions. Following a presentation, parents are often keen to know what their children's school is doing and how they can be active partners in the work.

Who: You can make this presentation open to all parents in your school community, or to parents of selected year levels, if preferred.

Format: In-person or online delivery.

Presenter: Maree Crabbe.

In The Picture

A comprehensive secondary school resource supporting schools to address pornography's influence.

In The Picture provides guidelines, suggested strategies and a wide range of practical resources for each aspect of a whole school approach to the issues, including:

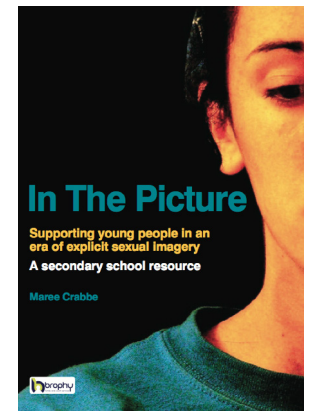
- policy
- equipping staff
- parent partnerships
- community partnerships
- supportive school contexts
- student education
- evaluation.

In The Picture includes a 480 page school leaders' manual and 82 supporting resources, including audit and planning tools, 10 curriculum activities, video clips to support student education, and parent tip sheets.

ORDER
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By selecting from *In The Picture's* broad suite of resources, schools can create a whole school approach to pornography that is tailored to suit their unique community and context.

Author: Maree Crabbe.



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Maree Crabbe

Director

It's time we talked



Maree is a speaker, educator, author and filmmaker who is passionate about supporting parents, schools, communities and government to address pornography's influence on young people.

Maree has worked with young people – and on issues effecting young people – for over 25 years. She has developed and delivered programs focusing on sexual violence prevention, sexual diversity, pornography, sexting, and the prevention of sexually transmissible infections. Maree presents at conferences throughout Australia and around the world and has delivered professional learning to thousands of educators, policy makers, researchers and practitioners who work with young people.

Maree's contributions to public conversations about young people, sexuality and pornography include the production of documentary films, interviews for television, radio and podcasts, and articles in academic and news media.

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Education resources

Maree is the author of two education resource packages:

- *In The Picture: Supporting young people in an era of explicit sexual imagery*
- *Talking Respect: Supporting conversations about healthy relationships and media influence with young people in the Northern Territory*

She was also a contributing author to respectful relationships and sexuality education resources:

- *Building Respectful Relationships: Stepping out against gender-based violence*
- *Catching On Later*
- *Sexuality Education Matters*

Articles and media

Publications

Maree has written articles for various news media and professional publications, including:

- *The Guardian*
- *The Sydney Morning Herald*
- *The Age*
- *The Conversation*
- *Huffington Post*
- *The Australian*
- *DVRCV Advocate*

Academic article

- School-based education to address pornography's influence: A proposed practice framework, *American Journal of Sexuality Education* (with Michael Flood)

Interviews and appearances

Maree has appeared in a wide range of media, including:

- *The New York Times Magazine*
- The Weekly with Charlie Pickering
- Bravehearts' Parent's Podcast
- ABC's 7.30 Report




Films

Maree is co-producer and co-director of two broadcast documentary films which have been screened in countries around the world:

- *Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography*
- *The Porn Factor*

Social media

Maree regularly posts about pornography and young people on social media:

-  Maree Crabbe
-  @MareeCrabbe
-  ItsTimeWeTalkedAus

FAQs

Does *It's time we talked* present to students?

No, we do not present to students. The focus of our work with schools is to support staff and parents to address pornography's influence with students as a sustainable, integrated component of your broader work to equip students for healthy relationships and sexuality. Consistent with international guidelines for sexuality education, we encourage schools to support teachers to deliver curriculum.

Can we invite staff from another school to attend professional learning?

Yes, you are welcome to invite staff from other schools to participate in professional learning. This can be a useful way to build common expertise across local schools and to reduce costs, by sharing expenses between schools. This option is particularly relevant for the full day key staff professional learning, as often individual schools have only 10-20 staff for whom this more intensive professional learning is relevant.

Can we invite people from local service providers?

Yes, you are welcome to invite people from local services to participate in professional learning. Doing so can help build a shared understanding of the issues in your broader community and strengthen your school's connections with local services. It can also assist you to cover the associated costs, if you elect to charge a registration fee to external participants. Examples of relevant services include sexual assault, family violence, youth, sexual health, child protection and out-of-home care services.

Is the professional learning suitable for primary school staff?

Yes. Our whole school staff professional learning is relevant for staff across both secondary and primary school settings. Our key staff professional learning focuses mostly on the experiences of adolescents but is also relevant for primary school staff – who can play a critical role in addressing pornography's harms through early education on themes such as help-seeking, respectful relating, media literacy and online safety skills.

Are *It's time we talked's* presentations to parents suitable for parents of primary school children?

Yes. Our presentations to parents also focus mostly on the experiences of adolescents, but they are relevant to parents of primary school-aged children. By building their understanding of pornography's prevalence, nature and impacts early, parents can be better prepared to prevent or reduce pornography exposure and equip their children with the skills they require to safely navigate pornography's influence.

Does *It's time we talked* support schools to communicate with parents?

Yes. We will provide you with a promotional blurb and other materials to support you to promote a parent presentation with your parent community. We also provide access to a series of parent tip sheets that you can make available to your parent community.



**For more information,
to request a quote, or
to make a booking please email:
admin@itstimewetalked.com**

