

Adolescent Sexual Health and the Victorian Health Service

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Outline

Introduction to adolescent development

Sexual behaviour data in Australia

Young people and sexual health

Cases



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Adolescent development 101

Early adolescence: 11-14 years

coming to terms with physical changes,
peer identification begins

“ am I normal? ”

Middle adolescence: 15-17 years

establishing self amongst others, strong peer identification, continued
separation from parents

“ am I cool? ”

Late adolescence: 18-21 years

functional roles established eg work, relationships

“ will I make it? ”



Developmental Tasks

Physical: *adolescence often recognised when puberty begins*

Cognitive: *development of abstract conceptualisation and deductive reasoning skills*

Psychosocial: *development of independence, own identity, moral value systems, peer relationships, realistic body images, sexual identity and personal goals*



Unique Clinical Challenges in Adolescence

Transition phase of adolescence produces ***specific disease patterns, unusual presentations and unique communication and management*** challenges for the practitioner

... in addition to risk taking behaviours



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Risk taking behaviours: part of normal development

Alcohol, drugs, cars, motorbikes, sexualised images ...

Difficulties can arise because of

- Ignorance (no prior experience or lack of information)
- Impulsiveness (thrill-seeking)
- Low self esteem
- Cognitive immaturity



Abstract thinking

I didn't use a condom as I didn't have one but I didn't get Chlamydia.

I was lucky, he was obviously clean. I won't risk it again. I'll always have a condom with me in future.

Concrete thinking

You said if I didn't use a condom I'd get Chlamydia and I didn't.

You were wrong, I obviously don't need condoms.



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Cases



Two major surveys on sexual behaviour in Australia

Secondary school surveys from ARCSHS at LaTrobe University

Serial surveys: 1992-2018:

knowledge, attitudes and reported behaviours

https://www.latrobe.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1072788/National-Survey-of-Australian-Secondary-Students-and-Sexual-Health-1992-2018-Trends-Over-Time.pdf

Australian study of health and relationships

UNNSW, US, University of Sussex and ARCSHS, La Trobe Uni

10 yearly, 2004 and 2014



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- Knowledge
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- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity of attraction



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Table 1.1 Survey domains and significant and meaningful changes over time

| Domain | Changed |
|---|------------------------|
| HIV transmission knowledge | None |
| Perceived risk for HIV | None |
| General STI knowledge | Increased |
| Perceived risk for STI | None |
| Self-reported STI diagnosis | None |
| Hepatitis knowledge | None |
| Self-reported hepatitis vaccination | None |
| HPV knowledge | None |
| Self-reported HPV vaccination | Decreased ¹ |
| Peer norms on condom use | None |
| Diversity of reported sexual attraction | Increased ² |
| Sexual behaviours | None |
| Sexual experiences | None |
| Unwanted sex | None |
| Condom use | None |
| Last sexual experience | None ³ |
| Sources of information on sexual health | Increased ⁴ |

Two major surveys on sexual behaviour in Australia

Secondary school surveys from ARCSHS at LaTrobe University

- Knowledge
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Table 6.2 Students' use of sources for sexual health information

| | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-----|------|-------|
| | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Doctor/GP | 41.7 | 842 | 32.6 | 790 | 29.0 | 442 | 32.8 | 1,113 |
| Immediate family | | | | | | | | |
| Father/male guardian | 31.8 | 617 | 28.7 | 695 | 18.2 | 278 | 26.7 | 899 |
| Mother/female guardian | 52.7 | 1,071 | 50.1 | 1,213 | 35.8 | 547 | 53.0 | 1,792 |
| Older sibling | – | – | 24.2 | 587 | 13.6 | 207 | 20.8 | 671 |
| Peers | | | | | | | | |
| Female friend | 49.1 | 991 | 50.5 | 1,224 | 39.6 | 604 | 74.6 | 2,525 |
| Male friend | 33.0 | 649 | 32.9 | 796 | 26.9 | 411 | 58.2 | 1,966 |
| School-based resources | | | | | | | | |
| School program | 75.4 | 1,563 | 46.4 | 1,124 | 42.5 | 649 | 54.0 | 1,824 |
| School counsellor | 13.9 | 265 | 12.8 | 310 | 10.6 | 161 | 9.6 | 324 |
| School nurse | 22.1 | 443 | 13.2 | 319 | 11.3 | 172 | 9.1 | 308 |
| Teacher | 46.0 | 914 | 31.1 | 754 | 28.9 | 441 | 30.3 | 1,022 |
| Community-based resources | | | | | | | | |
| Community health service | 22.4 | 431 | 13.3 | 322 | 10.6 | 161 | 17.3 | 579 |
| Youth worker | 31.1 | 743 | 10.8 | 262 | 9.2 | 140 | 8.0 | 268 |
| Internet websites | 42.1 | 1,005 | 36.0 | 872 | 43.1 | 657 | 79.9 | 2,703 |



Two major surveys on sexual behaviour in Australia

Secondary school surveys from ARCSHS at LaTrobe University

- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom use
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity of partners

Table 5.6 Students' reported sexual activities – penetrative sex

| | | 1992 | | 1997 | | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|--------|---------|------|-----|------|-------|------|-----|------|-------|------|-----|------|-------|
| | | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Male | Year 10 | 26.0 | 101 | 21.8 | 171 | 27.6 | 161 | 28.2 | 165 | 25.6 | 97 | 31.4 | 200 |
| | Year 12 | 48.3 | 159 | 46.3 | 332 | 48.2 | 201 | 46.8 | 182 | 55.4 | 108 | 51.7 | 541 |
| Female | Year 10 | 20.8 | 104 | 16.3 | 157 | 24.3 | 185 | 29.6 | 291 | 23.5 | 119 | 36.8 | 329 |
| | Year 12 | 46.6 | 215 | 47.8 | 471 | 46.1 | 258 | 62.8 | 518 | 47.9 | 168 | 57.9 | 675 |
| Total | | 34.5 | 580 | 32.8 | 1,130 | 34.7 | 804 | 41.5 | 1,157 | 34.4 | 492 | 46.6 | 1,745 |



Two major surveys on sexual behaviour in Australia

Secondary school surveys from ARCSHS at LaTrobe University

- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity

Table 5.5 Students' reported sexual activities – oral sex

| | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|--------------------|------|-----|------|-------|------|-----|------|-------|
| | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Giving oral sex | 39.0 | 923 | 44.6 | 1,258 | 38.5 | 578 | 52.1 | 1,988 |
| Receiving oral sex | 40.7 | 962 | - | - | 38.6 | 577 | 51.4 | 1,962 |



Two major surveys on

sex

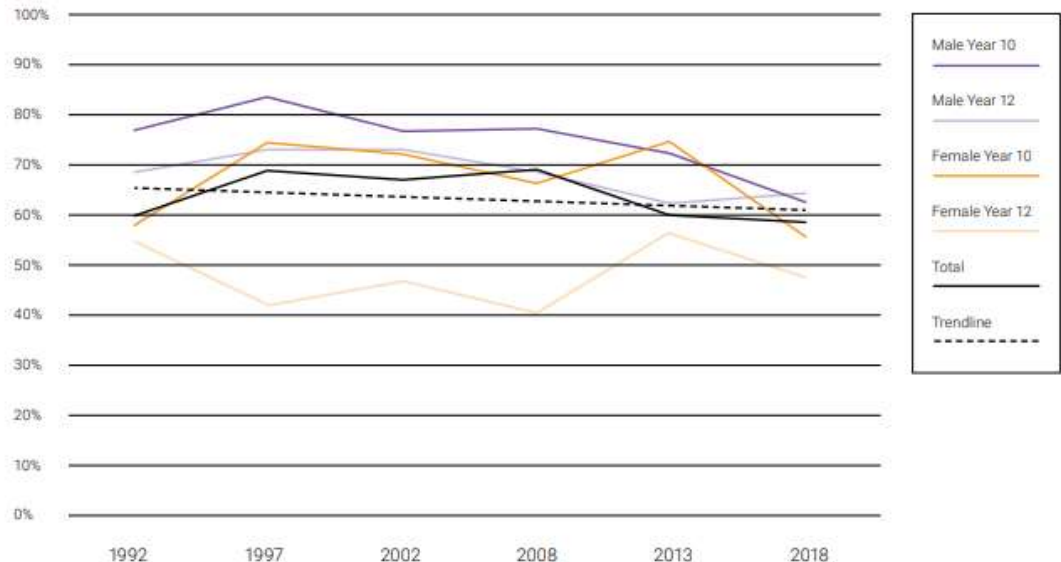
Secondary schools

- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity of attract

Table 5.10 Sexually active students' reported condom use in the previous year

| | 1992 | | 1997 | | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|-----------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Always | 43.0 | 227 | 53.1 | 553 | 51.9 | 392 | 50.0 | 554 | 46.3 | 208 | 38.5 | 629 |
| Sometimes | 42.4 | 224 | 37.8 | 393 | 39.2 | 296 | 43.0 | 476 | 41.2 | 185 | 48.7 | 796 |
| Never | 14.6 | 77 | 9.1 | 95 | 9.0 | 68 | 7.0 | 77 | 12.5 | 56 | 12.7 | 208 |

Figure 5.7 Percentage of students who sometimes or always used a condom in the last year



Two major surveys on sexual behaviour in Australia

Secondary school surveys from ARCSHS at LaTrobe University

- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity of attr

Table 5.8 Sexually active students who have ever had unwanted sex

| | | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|--------|---------|------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|
| | | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Male | Year 10 | 21.9 | 35 | 19.3 | 32 | 20.0 | 18 | 13.8 | 27 |
| | Year 12 | 23.8 | 48 | 15.0 | 27 | 22.9 | 24 | 18.5 | 98 |
| Female | Year 10 | 31.9 | 59 | 33.1 | 96 | 26.3 | 30 | 42.9 | 136 |
| | Year 12 | 25.8 | 66 | 40.4 | 210 | 28.6 | 48 | 33.8 | 221 |



Two sexual k

Secondary school surv

- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- **Unwanted sex**
- Diversity of attraction

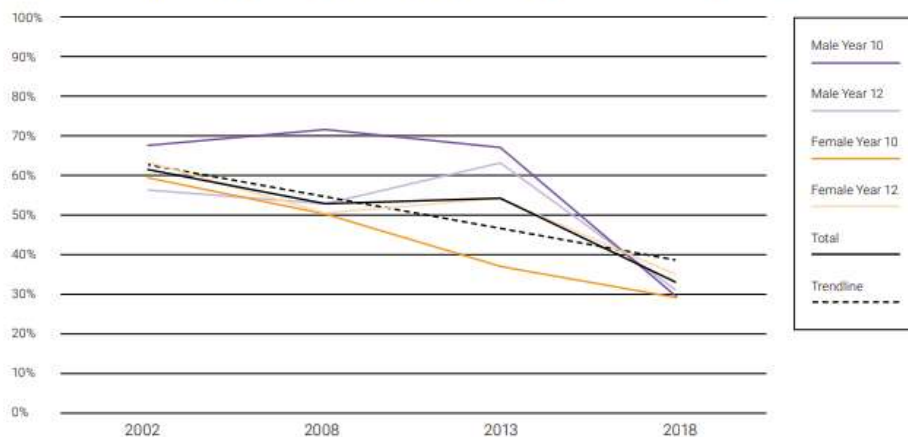


Table 5.9 Sexually active students who have ever had unwanted sex – reasons

| | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | |
| Male | I was too high at the time | 30.1 | 25 | 24.7 | 15 | 26.2 | 11 | 7.2 | 9 |
| | I was too drunk at the time | 61.0 | 51 | 62.7 | 37 | 64.3 | 27 | 31.2 | 39 |
| | My partner thought I should | 46.9 | 39 | 43.5 | 26 | 38.1 | 16 | 53.6 | 67 |
| | My friends thought I should | 12.5 | 10 | 12.7 | 7 | 26.2 | 11 | 18.4 | 23 |
| Female | I was too high at the time | 18.9 | 24 | 8.6 | 26 | 17.9 | 14 | 11.2 | 40 |
| | I was too drunk at the time | 61.0 | 76 | 50.2 | 154 | 47.4 | 37 | 32.5 | 116 |
| | My partner thought I should | 50.6 | 63 | 58.2 | 178 | 59.0 | 46 | 50.7 | 181 |
| | My friends thought I should | 4.3 | 5 | 8.4 | 26 | 10.3 | 8 | 5.3 | 19 |
| Total | I was too high at the time | 23.3 | 49 | 11.3 | 41 | 20.8 | 25 | 10.2 | 49 |
| | I was too drunk at the time | 61.0 | 127 | 52.2 | 191 | 53.3 | 64 | 32.2 | 155 |
| | My partner thought I should | 49.1 | 102 | 55.8 | 204 | 51.7 | 62 | 51.5 | 248 |
| | My friends thought I should | 7.6 | 16 | 9.1 | 33 | 15.8 | 19 | 8.7 | 42 |

Note: Multiple response questions

Figure 5.6 Percentage of students who reported alcohol use as the reason for experiencing unwanted sex



Two sexual b

Secondary school surve

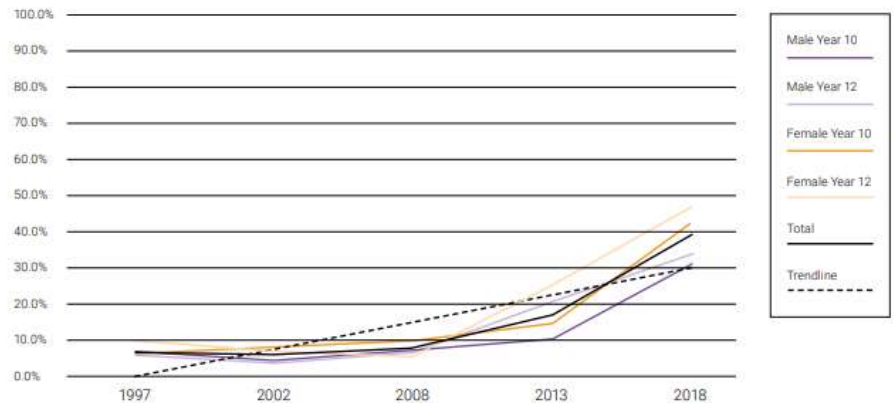
- Knowledge
- Penetrative sex
- Oral sex
- Condom usage
- Unwanted sex
- Diversity of attraction



Table 5.2 Who students are sexually attracted to – opposite sex, both sex, and same sex attraction

| | | 1997 | | 2002 | | 2008 | | 2013 | | 2018 | |
|---------|--------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n |
| Males | Opposite sex | 93.6 | 1,396 | 95.4 | 960 | 91.2 | 930 | 83.6 | 493 | 67.3 | 1,107 |
| | Both sexes | 3.2 | 47 | 1.0 | 10 | 1.0 | 10 | 4.7 | 28 | 25.9 | 426 |
| | Same sex | 1.9 | 29 | 2.3 | 23 | 5.1 | 52 | 8.1 | 48 | 6.0 | 98 |
| | Not sure | 1.3 | 19 | 1.3 | 13 | 2.7 | 27 | 3.6 | 21 | 0.9 | 15 |
| Females | Opposite sex | 90.4 | 1,754 | 91.5 | 1,219 | 91.0 | 1,701 | 78.0 | 669 | 54.7 | 1,091 |
| | Both sexes | 3.1 | 61 | 0.3 | 5 | 0.6 | 11 | 13.4 | 115 | 42.2 | 842 |
| | Same sex | 3.6 | 69 | 6.4 | 85 | 6.4 | 120 | 4.4 | 38 | 1.3 | 26 |
| | Not sure | 2.9 | 57 | 1.8 | 24 | 2.0 | 37 | 4.2 | 36 | 1.8 | 36 |
| Total | Opposite sex | 91.8 | 3,150 | 93.2 | 2,179 | 91.1 | 2,632 | 80.2 | 1,162 | 60.4 | 2,198 |
| | Both sexes | 3.1 | 108 | 0.6 | 14 | 0.8 | 22 | 9.9 | 143 | 34.8 | 1,268 |
| | Same sex | 2.9 | 98 | 4.6 | 108 | 6.0 | 172 | 5.9 | 86 | 3.4 | 124 |
| | Not sure | 2.2 | 76 | 1.6 | 37 | 2.2 | 65 | 3.9 | 57 | 1.4 | 51 |

Figure 5.1 Percentage of students reporting same or both sex attraction



Note: There were more response options in 2018 to align with best practices; these were collapsed for comparison purposes and may have resulted in over-estimation of same or both sex attraction in 2018.

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Considerations when seeing young teenagers having sex

Safety of young person:

- Age of patient and their partner
- Legal age of consent to sex
- Mandatory reporting
- Confidentiality
- Competence to consent
- Failure to disclose and failure to protect legislation

So how do you assess all this in a short consult?



Assessment

Sexual history in a nutshell

- When did you last have sex?
- Who with?
- Did you use a condom?
- What did you do?
- Do you have any other partners?



Psychosocial screening

- Home
- Education/Employment
- Activities and Peer Relations
- Drugs/cigarettes/alcohol
- Sex/sexuality/(abuse)
- Suicide/depression



What is the purpose of a HEADSS assessment?

Safety

Rapport

Risk and protective factors

Assessment of maturity

Accurate diagnosis

Appropriate intervention

Preventive health education

Making notes as a prompt for next visit



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Common Scenarios

14 year old having sex with a 17 year old



15 year old having sex with a 15 year old

13 year old having sex with a 15 year old

with a 16 year old

with a 19 year old



Case

Olivia

Young girl presents to a dedicated SRH service in Victoria
Presents Medicare card saying she is 14y old
14 weeks pregnant - requests TOP
Refuses parental involvement

Assessed as competent
Referred to provider for TOP
Service provider refused assessment or consideration because
“do not undertake 2nd trimester terminations < 16y without parental consent ”



Case

Issues raised by this case

Legal age of consent to sex

Competency to consent & confidentiality

Child protection legislation

Failure to disclose (criminal law)

Abortion legislation



Case

Legal Age of consent to sex in Victoria :

< 12y: **illegal** (consent not valid)

12y - 16y: **can be legal** providing < 2y older

>16y: **legal** if not under supervision



Case

Competency to consent & confidentiality

Gillick Competency - House of Lords 1985 (Fraser Ruling)

... that a doctor would not be aiding in the offence of carnal knowledge by providing or discussing contraception if he or she:

- Discuss with the individual about them discussing with parents
- Ensure young person understands the physical and emotional consequences of sex
- Be convinced the young person is likely to have sex with or without contraception
- Be convinced the physical or mental health of the young person is likely to suffer if denied
- Be convinced he or she is acting overall in her best interest

or advised on birth control until they are 16.

Victoria Gillick says she will continue to fight for parental consent to contraception



Case

Competency to consent & confidentiality

Based on the mature minor principle from UK Gillick Case

Reconfirmed by Australian ***Marion's Case 1992***

- appeal to High Court because of conflicting prior decisions
- competence to make decisions aged based?
- labelled certain procedures as **Special Medical Procedures**
- majority of Judges agreed: individual assessment not age



UK 2006 High Court Case

The screenshot shows the BBC News website interface. At the top left is the BBC NEWS logo. To its right is a red banner with the text "OPEN BBC News in video and audio". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "News Front Page", "World", "UK", "England", "Northern Ireland", and "Scotland". The "UK" link is highlighted. To the right of the menu, it says "Last Updated: Tuesday, 8 November 2005, 09:13 GMT". Below that are links for "E-mail this to a friend" and "Printable version". The main headline is "Mother seeks abortion rule change" with a sub-headline "A mother's legal challenge to guidelines allowing girls to". A small photograph of a woman's hair is visible to the right of the sub-headline. Below the main headline, there is a snippet of text: "Mrs Axon, of Baguley, Manchester, who has two teenage daughters, says she".

Mrs Axon, pursued a claim to High Court stating “she had the right to know if her daughters were having an abortion under the age of 16 years”

High Court confirmed that *“young people have the right to confidential health care if they are mature enough to understand the situation, and that there is no automatic right for parents to be informed if its against the wishes of the young person”*

BMA, medical defence organisations and Government officials agreed with the finding

Christian groups stated “that this further erodes the role and status of the family in society today”

Confidentiality



Medicare Federal funding

Access to most services needs Medicare identification

Family card until 15 years; then can obtain own card

< 14y with family Medicare card:

parents can obtain detailed itemised statement of activities without consent of young person

> 14y with family Medicare card:

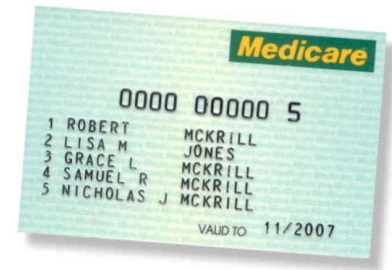
parents need written consent from young person

> 14y you can create a myGov account:

No one else can then view this information (limited < 14 years)



Confidentiality



Medicare Federal funding

In 2003 Australian Government proposed detailed information on Medicare cards would be freely available to parent of those on family card < 16y

Is confidentiality impaired by this system?

Only way to guarantee confidentiality is to avoid use of Medicare
Most services in Victoria require Medicare to access



Case

Assessing competency

- Understand there are choices with consequences
- Be willing to make a choice and have the ability to do so
- Understand the nature and purpose of the procedure
- Understand risks and side effects of the procedures
- Understand the alternatives to the procedure and their risks
- Understand the consequences of no treatment
- Be free from pressure from third parties
- Degree of competency required for consent is proportional to complexity



Case

Factors helpful in assessing competency

Age

Level of schooling

Independence

Maturity

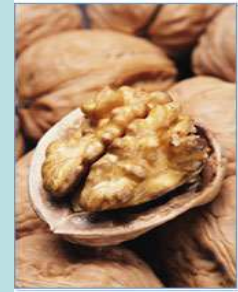
Ability to articulate own choices



Assessment

Sexual history in a nutshell

When did you last have sex?
Who with?
Did you use a condom?
What did you do?
Do you have any other partners?



Psychosocial screening

Home
Education/Employment Eating/Exercise
Activities and Peer Relations
Drugs/cigarettes/alcohol
Sex/sexuality/(abuse)
Suicide/depression Safety/Spirituality



Mandatory Reporting

Mandatory reporting

Some professionals (teachers, doctors, nurses, midwives, principals and police officers) mandated to report to child protection service if they form a belief (whilst undertaking professional duties) on reasonable grounds that a child (< 18y) has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of physical or sexual abuse and is in need of protection

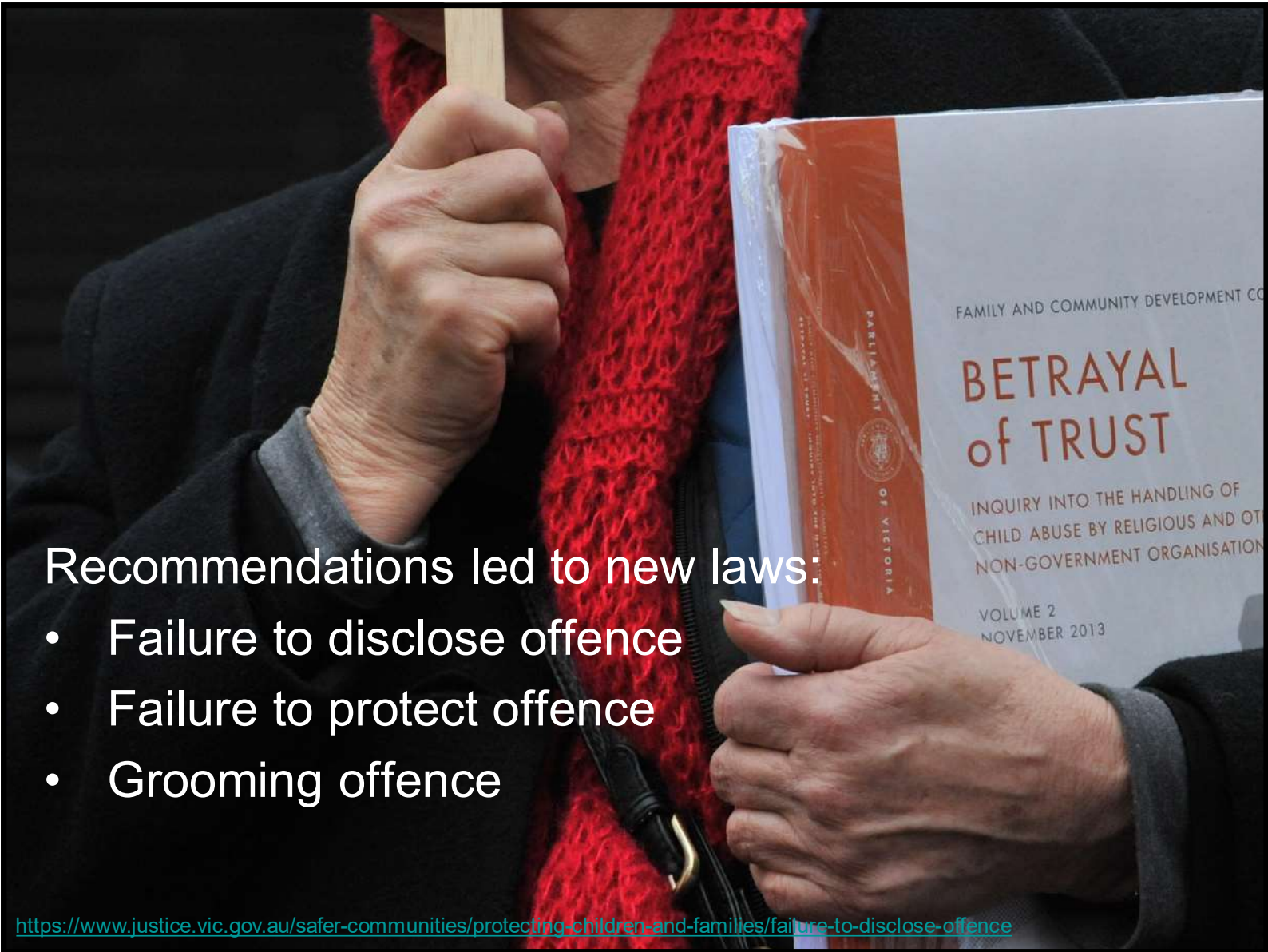
Case

Mandatory reporting

Some professionals mandated to report to child protection service if they form a belief (whilst undertaking professional duties) on reasonable grounds that a child (< 18y) has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of physical or sexual abuse and is in need of protection

NB **form a belief**
 reasonable grounds
 significant harm





Recommendations led to new laws:

- Failure to disclose offence
- Failure to protect offence
- Grooming offence

Other Legal Considerations

Crimes Act 1958 (Vic); Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014 (Vic)

Legislation arising from Betrayal of Trust Review leading to new laws: ***Failure to Protect, Failure to Disclose, Grooming 2014***

- All adults in relation to children under 16 years of age
- Clear definitions of sexual offences

Youth law (<http://youthlaw.asn.au/>)

- Victorian Statewide Community Legal Centre:
- free for those <25y of age



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Other Legal Considerations

Crimes Act 1958 (Vic); Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014 (Vic)

Legislation arising from Betrayal of Trust Review leading to new laws: ***Failure to Protect, Failure to Disclose, Grooming 2014***

- All adults in relation to children under 16 years of age
- Clear definitions of sexual offences

< 16y and partner >18y (i.e. adult)

What offences must be reported?

- Rape and sexual assault
- Sexual servitude
- Incest
- Sexual penetration
- Sexual touching
- Indecent act
- Grooming for sexual conduct
- Any assault with intent to commit a sex offence
- Any attempted sex offence

Other Legal Considerations

Crimes Act 1958 (Vic); Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014 (Vic)

Legislation arising from Betrayal of Trust Review leading to new laws: ***Failure to Protect, Failure to Disclose, Grooming 2014***

Exemptions

- Victim is >16y, has capacity* & requests confidentiality
- Special laws of privilege or confidential communications apply
- Information is public
- Past offences where victim now >16y
- If you were <18y at the time

The Children Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 followed a recommendation in the 2017 final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse that clergy and confession no longer be exempt from mandatory reporting.

Who do you report this to? Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT)



VICTORIA POLICE

- MESSAGE FROM
- The Chief Commissioner
- About Victoria Police
- 100 Years of Women In Policing
- Our Services
- Crime Prevention & Community Safety
- Work With Us
- Initiatives and Programs
- Advice
- Accessibility
- Child Abuse
- Community
- Emergency Response
- Family Violence
- Mental Health Strategy
- Outdoor and bush information
- Road Policing
- Road Safety
- Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Abuse
- Sexual Offences
 - Sexual offences and child abuse
 - Sexual Offences; Publications
 - Support services for Sexual Offences
 - SOCITs and MDCs
 - Contact your local Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT)

Home > Advice > Sexual Offences > Contact your local Se...

Advice

Contact your local Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT)

Release date: Thu 28 June 2012
Last updated: Thu 28 February 2019



Call Triple Zero (000) for emergency assistance



131 450



If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service



Find your local SOCIT

Our Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) locations and phone numbers across Victoria are listed below. The locations are divided into regions (North-West Metropolitan, Southern Metro your nearest unit.

Remember, in an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000).

North-West Metropolitan

- Brimbank: [\(03\) 9313 3460](tel:0393133460)
- Mernda: [\(03\) 9216 1310](tel:0392161310)
- Fawkner: [\(03\) 9355 6100](tel:0393556100)
- Wyndham (MDC*): [\(03\) 9216 0566](tel:0392160566)
- Melbourne: [\(03\) 8690 4056](tel:0386904056)

Southern Metropolitan

- Dandenong (MDC*): [\(03\) 8769 2200](tel:0387692200)
- Frankston (MDC*): [\(03\) 8770 1000](tel:0387701000)
- Moorabbin: [\(03\) 9556 6128](tel:0395566128)

Western Victoria

- Ballarat: [\(03\) 5336 6055](tel:0353366055)
- Bendigo (MDC*): [\(03\) 5444 6752](tel:0354446752)
- Colac: [\(03\) 5230 0043](tel:0352300043)
- Geelong (MDC*): [\(03\) 5246 8101](tel:0352468101)

Eastern Victoria

- Bairnsdale: [\(03\) 5150 2677](tel:0351502677)
- Benalla: [\(03\) 5760 0230](tel:0357600230)
- Box Hill: [\(03\) 8892 3292](tel:0388923292)
- Knox: [\(03\) 9881 7939](tel:0398817939)
- Morwell (MDC*): [\(03\) 5120 0351](tel:0351200351)

Case

Abortion Legislation

Section 65 of Crimes Act 1958 prohibits unlawful abortion in Victoria

Menhennitt ruling: Supreme court:

“it is a defence if termination is necessary to preserve the woman from serious danger to her life or physical or mental health, and the danger of procedure not out of proportion to the danger averted”

In 2008 abortion in Victoria became legal if gestation < 24 weeks
After 24 weeks abortion in Victoria is legal if 2 practitioners agree
Necessary for those fundamentally opposed to abortion to refer women to appropriate services



Case

Lessons from Olivia's case

Consideration for TOP refused on basis of her age alone

Service provision is driven by concern about law/medicolegal situation rather than individual assessment.

Access is hindered because of this.



Case

Lessons from Olivia's case

Olivia was actually 16y old (not 14y) ...

Used Medicare card belonging to 14y old cousin to gain access

Lack of knowledge about services hinders access and affects outcomes



Case

Lessons from Olivia's case

Failed to represent to another service despite repeated attempts to arrange follow up

Gave birth to a concealed pregnancy at term at home

When does 'duty of care' become harassment?



Common Scenarios

14 year old having sex with a 17 year old

15 year old having sex with a 15 year old

13 year old having sex with a 15 year old

with a 16 year old

with a 19 year old



ASRH Check Up

Take home points

- Sexual history
- Menstrual history ? pregnant
- HEADSS assessment
- Always do a chlamydia test
- Always ask about contraception: N.B. LARCS
- Always inform about ECP
- Inform of services
- Inform re confidentiality and limits
- Cervical screening now starts at 25 years of age

Have a think about how accessible your service is for adolescents?



Really Important Considerations

Safety: is this young person safe?

How do I assess this young person and their safety?

Specific issues to be aware of:

- Safety
- HEADSS assessment handy
- Competency
- Age of consent to sex
- Failure to protect and failure to disclose
- Abortion legislation
- Mandatory reporting and child protection legislation



Useful Links

SOCIT: local numbers on web site
Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team
work closely with DHHS, CASA, other police units

CASA: 1800 806 292
Centre against sexual assault

SAFE STEPS: 1800 015 188
for women and children facing violence: state-wide service

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732
National sexual assault, domestic family violence counselling service

Office of the Public Advocate: 1300 309 337
promotes and safeguards the health of those with disability
publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

<https://yla.org.au>

