Supporting the sector to deliver school-based relationships and sexuality education: The Curtin RSE Project 2014-18

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2018 SiREN Symposium
Overview

• Background
• Current strategies
• Future plans
• Lessons learned so far
Language

Sexuality education
Sex ed
Sexual health and relationships education
Relationships education
etc...

• Relationships and sexuality education (RSE)
• K-12
Since 2002, WA Health has funded RSE professional development programs for school staff.

From 2014, Curtin University was awarded the contract.

Program expanded to support pre-service and in-service teachers.

Promotion of the GDHR website is a key component.

Typically, this involved a two-day, face-to-face workshop (some ad hoc events).
RSE is addressed in the WA Health curriculum in very limited ways

We are competing in a very crowded curriculum

Most teacher training programs provide limited instruction in health (slightly better if training to be a Health & Physical Education specialist)

Teachers are more likely to deliver RSE content if shown the WHAT, WHEN, HOW and WHY
Online needs assessment

To determine what the sector requires

143 respondents

91 teachers

52 nurses
Symposiums

Showcasing the latest in school-based sexuality and relationships education

24 hours of training

457 delegates

223 teachers

104 agency staff

71 nurses

32 pre-service teachers

27 support staff
Workshops for Practising Teachers

A range of two-day and after-school workshops to support those currently working in schools

- 102 hours of training
- 378 participants

255 teachers & 51 nurses & 72 support staff

Focus on supporting staff who work in schools with a high proportion of Aboriginal or culturally diverse students

I feel much more confident to face a class of students and to teach them about relationships and sexuality. There has been some great activities and facilitation methods showcased, access to resources and networking.
Undergraduate tertiary unit for Pre-service Teachers

An undergraduate tertiary unit focused solely on school-based sexuality and relationships education

216 hours of classroom instruction

135 pre-service teachers trained

The most enjoyable elective I have ever taken and even more than that, it will be vital in my work with students. I have learnt so much —professionally and personally.
After-school seminars

- Young people, pornography and sexually explicit material
- Wellbeing and positive relationships
- Sexuality, citizenship and youth
- Creating safe schools: Working with same sex attracted and gender diverse students
- Supporting male teachers to deliver sexuality and relationships education
- Networking session for beginning sexuality and relationships educators

194 participants
Other strategies

Regular contact with our mailing list
800 members and growing
weeks 2 and 8 each term, plus e-alerts

3-4 Presentations each year
conferences, professional associations, etc.

Occasional television and radio interviews
From 2018

- Case study sites
  - Primary, Secondary, ESC
  - Whole-school approach to RSE

- Facebook Group

- School PD Days

- Online version of a RSE unit
  - Undergraduate and postgraduate

- Sexual health roadshow?
How to engage with schools or teachers

- Engage during school time, after hours, online, as part of school PD days
- Certificates of attendance to assist with accreditation
- Long lead times required
- Subsidise schools for teaching relief expenses if you can
- Make links to the curriculum
How to engage with schools or teachers

- Peer education resonates well
- Special ethics considerations if conducting research in schools
- Make lots of friends
- Professional event page, registration, ticketing, venue sets a good tone
- Feed them well!