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

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2018 SiREN Symposium

A global university

Western Australia | Dubai | Malaysia | Singapore



# 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

# Background

Typically, this involved  
a two-day, face-to-  
face workshop  
(some ad hoc events)

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

Since 2002, WA  
Health has funded  
RSE professional  
development  
programs for school  
staff

From 2014, Curtin  
University was  
awarded the contract

Promotion of the  
GDHR website is a  
key component



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*





## 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



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## 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

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.

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



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## 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

194

participants

Young people,  
pornography  
and sexually  
explicit  
material

Digital  
intelligence,  
responsibility  
and resilience in  
young people

Wellbeing and  
positive  
relationships

Supporting  
male teachers  
to deliver  
sexuality and  
relationships  
education

Sexuality,  
citizenship  
and youth

Creating safe  
schools: Working  
with same sex  
attracted and  
gender diverse  
students

Networking  
session for  
beginning  
sexuality and  
relationships  
educators





# 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

Certificates of  
attendance to assist  
with accreditation

Subsidise schools  
for teaching relief  
expenses if you can

Engage: during  
school time, after  
hours, online, as  
part of school PD  
days

Long lead times  
required

Make links to the  
curriculum





# How to engage with schools or teachers

Peer education  
resonates well

Professional  
event page,  
registration,  
ticketing, venue  
sets a good tone

Special ethics  
considerations if  
conducting research  
in schools

Make lots of friends

Feed them well!

