



MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate Release

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Children used as political footballs

Knowing what to do when children are exhibiting sexual behaviour is a challenge that teachers may face everyday in the classroom. Coverage in today's media has once again shown how controversial this topic can be when covered simplistically. Children learn about sexuality from the day they are born in all the interactions they have with the people they are in relationships with. Children also learn about sexuality from media sources and in the culture they inhabit. Most parents and carers want their children to feel positive about their sexuality as they grow and develop. Most parents recognise the lifelong benefits of communicating openly and honestly with their children.

[Traffic Lights](#) provides a tool to enable parents, teachers and others with children in their care to understand what behaviours are developmentally age-appropriate, what are behaviours of concern and to take action to support and protect children.

The Traffic Lights framework has been developed by FPQ in response to the research evidence about sexual development in children and adolescents. The Traffic Lights framework assists adults to understand sexual behaviours and to make clear and thoughtful assessments of behaviours in the context in which they occur.

The education, development and protection of all children are vitally important topics. These are often complex issues which require careful consideration, not over simplistic scaremongering.

So what exactly is the problem?

That teachers are getting professional development opportunities that enable them to better support and educate the children in their care?

That teachers and school communities are grappling with complex social and behavioural issues by dealing with complex case studies rather than simplistic sound bites?

That those who care for our children need the skills to see sexuality and prevention of problem sexual behaviours and sexual abuse as an important and professional area of their practice?

That Education Queensland is trying to address the uncomfortableness that still persists in society about sexuality and help support best practice of staff?

Rather than shut down these important conversations and learning opportunities, let's find ways to assist students, families and teachers to work together to support the healthy and safe development of all children.

For further information or comment, please contact Cecelia Gore, Director of Education and Community Services on 07 3250 0244 or 0411 674 892.

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Promoting Healthy Sexuality.