



MEDIA RELEASE
Immediate Release
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New study finds parents want sex ed in schools

A new study released by Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) today has found that 91 per cent of Queensland parents support school-based sexuality and relationships education.

FPQ Director of Education and Community Services, Cecelia Gore, explains, "Too often, schools choose to not provide sexuality and relationships education out of fear of parent backlash. This study shows parents support teachers to continue delivering and in fact expand what is covered in school-based sex ed. To ensure their voices are heard, it is important for parents to personally let their schools know that sexuality and relationships education is important to them."

The research uncovered that 80 per cent of parents believe it is very important that children receive ongoing lessons over several years, rather than a single session.

Parents' views of the most important topics were preventing sexual abuse; sexual development; reproductive health; and learning about feelings.

Nearly one half of parents would like children learning about sexual abuse prevention before their first day at primary school, and 87 per cent would like children to begin learning about this topic before high school.

"When sexuality and relationships education is not provided in schools, our young people are at risk of everything from sexual abuse to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections," said Ms Gore. She added, "Parents value sex ed. Parents want teachers to deliver this information to their children as a vital complement to the information they provide at home. The research shows 79 per cent of Queensland parents surveyed would be concerned if there was no sexuality and relationships education in schools."

The research revealed solid support for sexuality and relationships education amongst both mothers and fathers and those with a range of religious beliefs, and regardless of whether parents speak a language other than English at home or have a child with a disability.

Queensland Health provided \$160,000 for 2010/11 to FPQ to support sexuality education initiatives in schools including undertaking the research study.

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

www.fpq.com.au Promoting Healthy Sexuality.