

## New children's book a great start to sexuality education

Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) launches its first children's book: *'Everyone's got a bottom'* at the Brisbane Square Library tomorrow.

FPQ research and development manager Holly Brennan said the storybook was written for children aged between three and eight. She said early childhood sexuality education was an important tool in preventing child sexual abuse.

**'To the best of our knowledge this is the first Australian book for young children, using children as characters, that correctly names body parts,' Ms Brennan said.**

'Until now, people have ignored the research showing you have to talk about sexuality to stop child sexual abuse. Police statistics show the average child is nine when he or she is first sexually assaulted. Research also shows that child abuse perpetrators target children with little knowledge about sexuality. The perpetrators start when children are young, so protective information and education needs to start as early as possible.

'Giving sexuality information in an age appropriate way does not take away a child's innocence: it can help protect children's innocence.

***'Everyone's got a bottom'* is a story about Ben and his brother and sister learning and talking about bodies. It is a story about children keeping safe, in a style that is fun and positive and a tool for parents and carers to start a conversation with children about self protection.'**

The book is the result of collaboration between FPQ, writer Tess Rowley and illustrator Jodi Edwards. Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs OA and child protection experts from C&K, NAPCAN and QUT's School of Early Childhood have endorsed *'Everyone's got a bottom'*.

**'We are really proud of this book because this approach is based on sound research,' Ms Brennan said. 'We are also proud of the stunning artwork created by Brisbane artist Jodi Edwards. Jodi illustrated the book with an original technique involving scanned fabric, wallpaper and computer graphics to create a result that delights children and adults.'**

The author, the artist, and FPQ staff will attend tomorrow, when broadcaster and journalist Julie McCrossin launches *'Everyone's got a bottom'*.

'We need to listen to children, to help keep them safe. This book gives young children a voice by giving them the words they need. Congratulations to everyone involved!' said Ms McCrossin.

**When:** Tuesday 3 April 2007 from 10 am to 11.30

**Where:** Children's Lounge, Brisbane Square Library and Customer Centre  
266 George Street

**Speakers:** Julie McCrossin, broadcaster, journalist  
Mark Francis, Director, Department of Child Safety  
Tess Rowley, author and storyteller  
Kelsey Powell, CEO Family Planning Queensland

**Picture opportunity:** Author Tess Rowley will read *'Everyone's got a bottom'* for children at 11am.

**For interviews call media officer Vivienne Wynter 07 3250 0222 or 0419 029 728.**

*FPQ is the leading provider of sexual and reproductive health services in Queensland.*