

Consent to a healthy and safe Carnivale

Family Planning Queensland's (FPQ) Sexual Assault Service, Douglas Community, will be launching a new health promotion initiative this week to coincide with the upcoming 'Reef and Rainforest Carnivale.'

The 'Consent is..' campaign aims to raise awareness around the issue of consensual sex in the local community to help promote a healthy, safe and respectful Carnivale for everyone.

The initiative will specifically address issues concerning what consensual sex means to individuals and how best to communicate this effectively with potential sexual partners.

FPQ's local Sexual Assault Counsellor, Upasana Papadopoulos, says, "this campaign attempts to place the responsibility for sexual assault with the perpetrators of the crime. It also hopes to invite the wider community to lend its voice to the message that sexual assault will not be condoned or overlooked."

FPQ advocates that consensual sex means that your partner is:

- Legally old enough to have sex
- Sober enough to make an informed decision
- Is able to change their mind and ask you to stop
- Is not afraid of you or of what you will do if they say no to sex
- Does not feel coerced, pressured, overpowered, manipulated or tricked into any sexual act that they do not want to be part of

The campaign has been developed in response to police crime data and anecdotal information regarding incidents of sexual assault against children, young people and adults in the local community.

The latest statistics tell us that the incidence of sexual assault in Far North Queensland exceeds that of any other part of the state. It also suggests that these assaults are committed for the most part by people known by the victim.

To get involved and help raise awareness around these important issues, come along to the FPQ Carnivale stall or enter our community competition. Details of the competition will be in the next issue of the Mossman Port Douglas Gazette.

For anyone experiencing problems relating to sexual assault, please contact the Family Planning Queensland's Douglas Community Sexual Assault Service on 07 4099 5066.

ENDS

About Family Planning Queensland's Sexual Assault Service for the Douglas Community

This service provides support for women 15 years or older who have been sexually assaulted, and to children, boys and girls up to the age of 18 years who have been sexually abused recently or in the past.

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Upasana Papadopoulos on 07 4099 5066 or upapadopoulos@fpq.com.au