

Parents want more sex education: survey

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Nearly 80 per cent of Queensland parents think their children should be receiving more sex education at school, new figures show.

A survey by sexual health service provider Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) found the vast majority of mums and dads - 71 per cent - would like their children to [learn the facts of life](#) before starting high school, believing it will result in healthier relationships later in life.

As many as one-third of the 500 parents polled across the state said sex education should be taught before primary school to help prevent and detect child sexual abuse.

FPQ's director of education services, Cecelia Gore said the results debunked teacher concerns that sex education would prompt a parental backlash.

The findings have also bolstered FPQ's calls for greater emphasis on sex education teaching in the classroom, including a focus on relationships and emotions.

"It is our view that comprehensive sexuality education should be available in all Queensland schools," Ms Gore said.

"Without it, our young people are being put at risk from everything from unwanted pregnancies to sexually transmitted infections to sexual abuse."

Ninety-five per cent of Queensland mums cited the risk of their children falling victim to pedophiles as their biggest fear.

The study also found 86 per cent of parents also believed school-aged children needed information about growing up before they reached puberty.