

Towards a National Approach: Sexual and Reproductive Health Australia (SRHA) Recommendations for Pornography Education



Leon Huxtable¹, Sheena Callaghan², Natasha Milner², Cindy Fuller³, Peter Hyndal⁴, Samantha Read¹

¹Sexual Health Victoria, Melbourne | ²True Relationships and Reproductive Health, Brisbane | ³Family Planning Australia, Sydney | ⁴Sexual Health & Family Planning ACT, Canberra

A NATIONAL SOLUTION FOR PORNOGRAPHY EDUCATION

SRHA RECOMMENDS

1. EDUCATE

Increase access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education(CSE) inclusive of pornography literacy for children, young people, parents and carers.
2. TRAIN

Increase training and development on CSE inclusive of pornography literacy for professionals, parents, carers and community service providers.
3. REFRESH

Promote ongoing research into the impacts of pornography to inform evidence-based policy and educational content.
4. FUND

Commit to sustained funding for education, training and research.
5. ALIGN

Embed pornography literacy content within the Australian Curriculum (HPE) and state and territory RSE frameworks.
6. BUILD CAPACITY

Strengthen educator capability across pre-service and in-service training.

IMPACT

- Equips young people to critically evaluate pornography and its influence on expectations, relationships and consent
- Acts as a preventative measure against image-based abuse
- Builds digital and pornography literacy across families, professionals and communities

WHY IT MATTERS

Australia has no national approach to education about sexual content online.

Young people are encountering pornography often before any sexual experience of their own, and often unintentionally.

A nationally accepted framework could underpin state and territory curricula and inform international approaches.

WHY AUSTRALIA NEEDS PORNOGRAPHY EDUCATION

BACKGROUND

The digital age has made pornography more accessible than ever, with growing numbers of adults and young people accessing pornographic material (Lewczuk, Wójcik & Gola, 2022).

SRHA recognises that pornography can play an important and positive role for some people in exploring and expressing their sexuality and acknowledges its harmful impacts when combined with other influential factors.

Education, advocacy and policy development are critical to empowering people to make informed decisions and mitigating harm.

WHAT WE MEAN BY PORNOGRAPHY

SRHA defines pornography as consensual material involving adults (18+), distributed with the consent of all parties, compliant with Australian law. Sexual content created or shared without consent is not pornography it is image-based abuse or exploitation material, which SRHA unequivocally opposes.

THE PICTURE IN AUSTRALIA

NO

National approach exists in Australia for educating young people about pornography

11.5yrs

Average age of first unintentional viewing of pornography (Power et al., 2026)

13yrs

Average age of first intentional viewing (Power et al., 2026)

Most young people

first encounter pornography unintentionally via pop-ups, social media or group chats (eSafety Commissioner, 2023)

77%

see themselves as responsible for educating their children about online pornography yet fewer than half have actually had the conversation (eSafety Commissioner, 2024)



References—eSafety Commissioner (2023, 2024) | Lewczuk, Wójcik&Gola (2022) Arch Sex Behav 51(2) | Power et al.(2026)8th Australian Secondary Students and Sexual Health Survey, ARCSHS, La Trobe University

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