

PLAY AND PLEASURE

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Background: Men are often told what not to do in navigating relationships but often no one's tells them what to do or how to negotiate. As societal expectations of sex and masculinity change it became evident for the community of gay men and men who have sex with other men needed a space to talk, learn, communicate and educate themselves. Play and Pleasure has provided a series of workshops to explore a range of topics to help support men to negotiate their own sexual and emotional boundaries and communicate these with partners while respecting differences.

Analysis: Play and Pleasure ran seven themed workshops over a three month period of time. Workshops were stand alone and did not require individuals to attend all. The themes covered were based on the environmental scan of need for health education and relationship support for gay men and men who have sex with other men in the ACT and surrounding region. Themes:

Building positive attitudes

Communication

Educating skills and safe sex

Negotiating relationships

Online pleasure and safety

Porn and Toys

Creativity and Sex

Conclusion: When men are provided a space to discuss their sexual desires, their skill acquisition goals around negotiating their relationships and to celebrate their experiences in the world it creates a dynamic environment for holistic and sex positive education. The peer educators saw a profound connection to the content by the participants which enlivened robust and engaging discussion, skills building and sharing evenings across the three months.