

Aim: The aim of this research was to explore how New Zealand parents with young people aged 11-14 understand and experience their role in sexuality education.

In 2017 the Minister of Education at the time, Hekia Parata, discussed sexuality and consent education and stated it was "first and foremost a parental, family and whanau responsibility" (Stuff, April 3, 2017). This statement was problematic as it failed to consider the feelings and emotions deeply embedded in adult engagement, and silence, around sexuality education. Furthermore, it continues to perpetuate a public/private, home/school divide that fails to engage with the complexities of sexuality education in the digital age.

Adults are often haunted by their own sexuality education experiences and continue to try and protect young people from the complexity, irrationality and joy of relationships. Rather than opening up discussion around the broader determinants of sexuality, this protection often shuts down the opportunity to engage with young people.

Method: The research drew on a feminist poststructural theoretical framework and utilized qualitative focus group interviews with 56 parents.

Results: Data were analysed through a Foucauldian inspired discourse analytic lens which highlighted key themes. This presentation will explore the theme of parental feelings of inadequacy, and identify strategies that address the affective element of sexuality education. 'Tipping over' adult feelings about sexuality is crucial for sexual health promotion.

Conclusions: Parental fears and anxieties about the provision of sexuality education must be addressed if we are to deliver quality sexual health promotion.