



Consent

Comprehensive sexual education, including consent, promotes the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of young people. (UNESCO)

What is Consent?

Consent is about gaining permission for something to happen, and takes place in everyday interactions. Consent to sexual experiences is legally defined as someone agreeing freely and voluntarily. This is an affirmative consent model - consent must be actively sought and confirmed, not assumed to be in place.

There are legal ages of consent which vary across Australia between 16 and 17 depending on state or territory. There are other conditions which must be met for consent to be legally valid: that no person is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; nor asleep; nor was there any fear, manipulation, pressure or coercion.

Consent in the Australian Landscape

- **Legal Reform**
Multiple Australian states and territories have amended their sexual consent laws in recent years, including NSW, ACT, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania.
- **Education Curriculum Reform:**
In 2022, Federal and State education ministers across Australia mandated holistic and age-appropriate consent education in all Australian schools.
- **National Awareness Campaigns:**
The Australian Government has launched campaigns aimed to increase awareness, including the Consent Can't Wait campaign. Find out more at www.consent.gov.au.

Resources for International Students

All young people must have access to education which enables for safer and more informed decisions about their interpersonal and intimate relationships.

Translated resources: consent.gov.au/translated-resources

State specific resources e.g.

<https://internationalstudents.health.nsw.gov.au/lets-talk-about-consent/>