



Where to get help

If you think a crime has been committed, you can contact the police.

If you are worried about someone, you can call:

CrisisCare – 9223 1111 or
1800 199 008 Freecall from a landline only.

Sexual Health Helpline – 9227 6178
(metropolitan) or 1800 198 205 (country).

If you have been the victim of a sexual offence, you can call:

Sexual Assault Resource Centre
(24 hour emergency line for sexual assault)
6458 1828 or 1800 199 888
Freecall from a landline only.

Or talk to:

- your community nurse
- a teacher
- a police officer
- a welfare officer.

They will do their best to make sure there is no gossip and things are done the proper way.



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

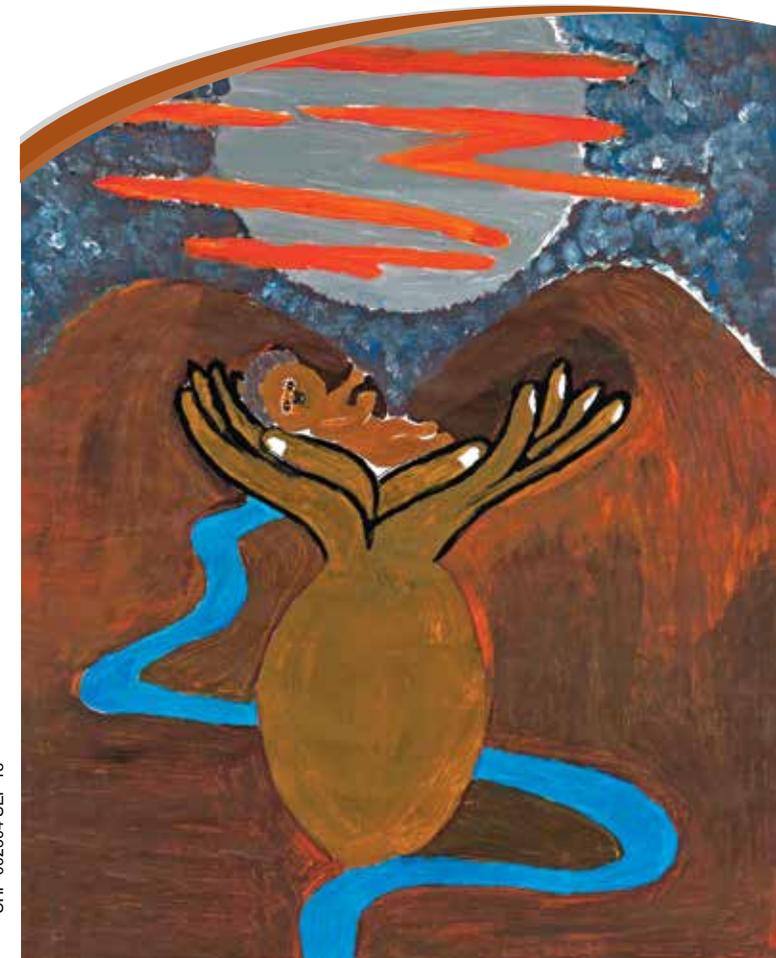
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What the law says about sex



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What the law says about sex

- ✓ Both people have to be 16 years of age or older.
- ✓ Both people have to consent to having sex - that means they both freely agree to it.

But, there are some exceptions:

Sometimes it can be against the law to have sex, even if the people are over 16.

- You can't have sex with someone who is a close relation, like a son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister or a parent, or any child under your care.
- You can't have sex with someone who is so mentally impaired they can't understand the sexual act or can't give proper consent.
- People in positions of authority, like a teacher, coach, pastor or community leader, aren't allowed to have sex with anyone younger than 18.

What is consent?

The law calls it consent when people are happy to have sex with each other.

It is important to check:

- that the other person can consent (because they are 16 years of age or older)
- that they are giving their consent freely and voluntarily.

The best way to check if someone consents to having sex or doing a sexual thing is to just ask them.

What the law says about consent

Consent can be taken away if someone changes their mind. People are allowed to change their mind about sex half way through. They might have said "yes" at the start, but if they say "no" at any time the other person must stop. They might also give consent to doing some sexual things, but not others.

A person can't give consent if they are:

- forced, threatened, intimidated or tricked into having sex
- so drunk or drugged they don't know what's going on
- asleep or unconscious.

If you have sex with someone without their consent, it is a sexual offence.

The law isn't just about full on sex, it's also against the law to touch someone in a sexual sort of way if that person doesn't consent or if they're younger than 16 years of age.

If you commit a sexual offence, you could go to prison and this can have a damaging impact on your future.

The harm to a victim of a sexual offence can last a lifetime, and could cause damage and sadness to families and communities.

The law and 'sexting'

'Sexting' means using things like phones, Facebook, Snapchat or email to send or receive sexual photos or videos.

It is against the law to send any sexual images of someone under 16, including images of yourself. If you're over 18, it's against the law to look at or send sexual images of anyone under 18. This law is to protect young people.

Once an image is taken, it is easy to lose control over who sees it. This could be embarrassing and harmful. If you receive a sexual image from someone, it is best to delete it and not send it to other people.

If a sexual image of you has been shared online, you can contact the administrator of the website and ask them to take the image down. For more information on how to do this, visit the website of the eSafety Commissioner <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

It's all about choice and respect

Respecting other people and respecting what the law says is the right thing to do.

Remember, everyone has different values and attitudes and they may be different to yours. Respecting other people's choice to not have sex or not do sexual things is the right thing to do.